

PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS;

CONSISTING OF A

COMPLETE COLLECTION

OF

KINGS SPEECHES.

MESSAGES to PARLIAMENT, ADDRESSES and REPRESENTATIONS of
BOTH HOUSES to the THRONE, SPEECHES of LORDS
CHANCELLORS, JUSTICES, &c. and of SPEAKERS
of the HOUSE of COMMONS.

from the Revolution in 1660 to the Dissolution of the last Parliament in May, 1736.

A

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OF THE

LORDS' PROTESTS.

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OF THE

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From the scale it is unit to the present Time.

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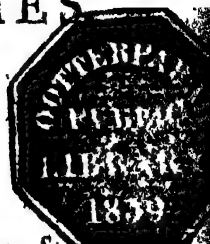
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&c.



His Majesty GEORGE the SECOND's *most gracious*
January 14, 1746.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

AT the opening of this session of Parliament, I did not think it proper to lay any thing before you for your consideration, but what immediately related to the present unnatural rebellion, and our security at home. The daring attempts which the rebels have since made upon this part of my kingdom has been happily disappointed: and as their precipitate flight before a small number of my troops must greatly dispirit their followers, so that inviolable duty and loyalty which have been so universally and steadily shewn by my faithful subjects, and shall never be forgotten by me, must convince them how vain and ill grounded their hopes were of any addition of strength from such an enterprise. I have not only sent a considerable body of our national forces into Scotland, and ordered the Hessian troops in my pay to be landed there; but have also made such a disposition of the rest of my forces, by land as well as by sea, that I hope, by the blessing of God, this rebellion will in a short time be extinguished, and our enemies, who have so long menaced us with an invasion, be deterred by the seasonable preparations made for our defence.

The election of the Emperor, which I very zealously promoted, was an event of great importance, not only to the support of the house of Austria, but to the liberties of Europe in general. I did also, during the course of the last year, exert my earnest endeavours to bring about an accommodation between the Empress, the King of Poland, and the King of Prussia; and laid a proper foundation for it by the convention made between me and the King of Prussia. This great work being at length perfected under my mediation, by the treaty

* A duplicate of this speech having by mistake been inserted, Vol. I. p. 705. the reader is requested to refer to p. 707 of that volume, for the Address of the House of Lords, and his Majesty's answer to it.

lately concluded at Dresden, the interior tranquillity of Germany, amongst the princes of the Empire, is now restored. My next care has been, and shall continue to be applied to improve this accommodation to the best advantage, by procuring an immediate succour to be sent to Italy; and such a strength, for the defence and security of the United Provinces, as may preserve that republic, the ancient and natural ally of this kingdom, and one main support of the protestant cause, from the destruction with which it is threatened, as well as to attain a safe and honourable peace. The States General have made the most pressing instances to me to assist them in this difficult conjuncture. The imminent dangers to which they are at present exposed, which do so nearly affect the safety of Great Britain, as well as the very being of Holland, call for our most serious attention; for the interests of the two nations are so united, that whatsoever brings ruin upon the one, must, in consequence, be attended with the most fatal mischiefs to the other. These reasons have induced me to assure the States that I will, to the utmost of my power, according to the circumstances of my own dominions, co-operate with them towards opposing the further progress of our enemies in the Netherlands, and procuring a proper security for the republic against the ambitious and destructive designs of France. In order to this necessary end, measures are now actually concerting between me and the States, for furnishing this assistance on my part, as early and effectually as possible; and for their making such an augmentation of their present forces, as their own immediate preservation, and the necessity of affairs absolutely require.

The great advantages which we have received from our naval strength, in protecting the commerce of my subjects, and intercepting and distressing that of our enemies, have been happily experienced by the former, and severely felt by the latter. I am therefore determined to be particularly attentive to this important service; and to have such a fleet at sea early in the spring, as may be sufficient to defend ourselves, and effectually to annoy our enemies.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

It is with much regret that I find myself obliged to ask any further aids of my people: I am so sensible of the burthens they endure, that nothing could give me so sincere a pleasure as to lighten them; but the considerations I have laid before you are so necessary to our own preservation, that I doubt not you will grant me such a supply as shall be sufficient for these purposes. The proper estimates shall soon be laid before you, and I earnestly recommend it to you to take the most effectual

fectual methods to maintain the public credit in this conjuncture.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I have fully opened to you my views and intentions, which are so essential to the honour of my crown, and the true interest and well-being of my kingdoms, that I depend on your vigorous support, and the utmost unanimity and dispatch in your proceedings.

Address by the House of Commons to his Majesty, Jan. 15, 1746.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons of Great Britain, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to return your Majesty our sincere thanks for your most gracious speech from the throne.

It is with the truest satisfaction that we congratulate your Majesty on the success of your arms, under the command of his royal highness the Duke, in driving the rebels out of one part of the united kingdom; not doubting but by the zeal and loyalty of your faithful subjects, and the further progress of your troops, this unnatural rebellion will happily and speedily be extinguished throughout the whole kingdom. And we assure your Majesty that we will persevere in supporting your Majesty in all such measures as shall be thought necessary for so desirable an end. And though we trust in your Majesty's wisdom, that the measures you have already pursued will deter any foreign power from undertaking so rash an enterprise as the invasion of this island, yet we beg leave to assure your Majesty, that whatever further strength shall be found necessary, you may depend on your faithful Commons for their cheerful and ready assistance to make good the same.

Permit us to congratulate your Majesty on the success of your endeavours in the choice of an Emperor, and thereby procuring an additional strength to the house of Austria, and a further security to the liberties of Europe in general.

We take this occasion to express our highest satisfaction on the peace concluded between the Empress, the King of Poland, and the King of Prussia; whereby the interior tranquillity of the Princes of the Empire is restored, and the Empress enabled more effectually to support herself and her allies in Italy, particularly the King of Sardinia, to whose assistance we will contribute on our part, whatever shall be found necessary and expedient.

And your Majesty may depend on your faithful Commons, that as they are fully sensible that the true interest of the States General and that of these kingdoms is the same, they will enable your Majesty, as far as our circumstances will permit, to give that succour to the United Provinces, which, with a proper and vigorous exertion of their own strength, may put a stop to the further progress of the arms of France in the Netherlands, procure them a sufficient security against their enemies, and obtain a safe and honourable peace.

We beg leave to return your Majesty our thanks for the particular care which your Majesty has taken, and graciously promised to continue, of the naval strength of these kingdoms; from whence we have already received, and from which, under your Majesty, we may justly hope for the most important services.

And we assure your Majesty that we will, in all our deliberations, have the greatest regard to public credit; the support of which is at this time so essentially necessary towards carrying into execution every measure that can conduce to the honour of your Majesty, and the true interest and well-being of your people.

His Majesty's Answer, January 17, 1746.

Gentlemen,

I THANK you for this dutiful and affectionate address. The zeal you express, and the assurances you give, of vigorously supporting me in suppressing the rebellion, and in assisting my allies, are very agreeable to me. You may be assured that in all the measures I shall pursue for attaining these ends, I shall have a constant regard to the abilities of my people, as well as to the true interest and security of my kingdoms.

Address by the House of Lords, April 29, 1746.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Lords spiritual and temporal, in Parliament assembled, beg leave, with hearts full of the most unfeigned joy, to congratulate your Majesty on the happy success with which it has pleased Almighty God to bless your arms against the rebels.

When we consider the value and extent of that happiness which this execrable rebellion was formed to take from us, our
holy

holy religion, our laws and liberties, and the great support of them all, your Majesty's mild and gracious government, and the protestant succession in your royal house; when on the other hand we consider the insupportable miseries designed by the wicked authors of this detestable scheme to be brought upon this nation, our thankfulness to Heaven, and the transports we feel in our breasts on this occasion, are raised beyond the power of words to express.

The just and wise use which your Majesty has made of those necessary measures which were taken to strengthen your hands in this conjuncture, for the defence of your Majesty's crown and the protection of your people, demands all the returns of gratitude, zeal, and affection which the most faithful subjects can pay to the best of Kings; and the unprovoked treason and perfidy with which this rebellion has been begun and obstinately carried on, as well as the many calamities this nation has suffered from it, call for exemplary justice against those disturbers of our peace.

It is with the greatest pleasure and admiration we behold in how eminent a manner this signal victory has been owing to the valour and conduct of his royal highness the Duke. If any thing can add to our joy on such an event, it is to see a Prince of your Majesty's blood, formed by your example and imitating your virtues, the glorious instrument of it. And happy should we be in any opportunity of testifying the high sense we have of such illustrious merit.

The bravery, fidelity, and firmness by which the officers and soldiers of your Majesty's army have distinguished themselves on this occasion, give us the utmost satisfaction, and will, we doubt not, convince your enemies how much they have to fear from troops led on by such a commander.

May the divine Providence continue to preserve your Majesty's precious life, and to prosper your councils and arms with success; and permit us in the most solemn manner to renew the strongest assurances to your Majesty of our most zealous and vigorous support and assistance entirely to extinguish this rebellion, absolutely to crush this last desperate effort of a popish abjured Pretender, and to improve the consequences of it to add stability to your throne.

His Majesty's Answer, April 29, 1746.

My Lords,

THE success of my arms against the rebels is the more agreeable to me, as it gives such universal satisfaction to all my loving subjects. Your joy on this occasion is a fresh

mark of your zeal and affection for me and my family ; and the approbation you express of the services of my son the Duke, gives me great pleasure. You may depend on my utmost care to improve this success, to re-establish the tranquillity and security of my kingdoms.

Address by the House of Commons, April 29, 1746.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons of Great Britain, in Parliament assembled, humbly beg leave to congratulate your Majesty on the great and important success with which it has pleased Almighty God to bless your Majesty's arms, under the command of his royal highness the Duke, against the rebels.

It is with hearts full of duty and gratitude we acknowledge your Majesty's wisdom and paternal attention to the interest and welfare of your people, so strongly expressed by your Majesty, in the choice of that general, whose birth and tried abilities marked him out to defend the liberties and constitution of Great Britain, and so sensibly felt by your people in the happy consequences of that choice.

And as we think the defeat given to the rebels an event which must immediately produce the most desirable effects upon the whole state of our affairs at home and abroad ; so we doubt not but in its remoter consequences, it will tend to the future peace and tranquillity of your Majesty's reign, to the firm establishment of your Majesty and your royal posterity upon the throne of these kingdoms, and to the effectual security of the religion, laws, and liberties of Great Britain.

Thus by a fate not uncommon to the devices of rebels and traitors, those wicked attempts which have been levelled against the protestant succession, and the happy constitution of this country, will, under the blessings of Providence, prove in the result, the most effectual means of confirming both.

We beg leave to assure your Majesty, that your faithful Commons, truly sensible of the great benefits this nation has received from the eminent courage and conduct of his royal highness the Duke upon this occasion, are desirous and will be ready to give his royal highness such distinguishing marks of public gratitude as shall be most agreeable to your Majesty, and are justly due to his superior merit.

His Majesty's Answer, April 30, 1746.

Gentlemen,

I RETURN you my hearty thanks for this address, so full of affection to me and my family: the satisfaction I feel at the success of my arms against the rebels is greatly increased by your kind expressions towards my son the Duke, and your approbation of his services on this occasion. I will not fail to improve this advantage to the utmost of my power, towards establishing upon a lasting foundation the future security and happiness of my people.

Message from his Majesty to the House of Commons, May 13, 1746.

GEORGE REX.

THE desire which his Majesty's faithful Commons have expressed to shew some public mark of their approbation of the services performed by his dearly-beloved son the Duke of Cumberland, towards suppressing the rebellion and preserving our happy constitution in church and state, has given his Majesty the greatest satisfaction: his Majesty is therefore persuaded that upon this occasion he complies with the inclination of this House, in recommending to their consideration the settling an additional revenue upon his said son and his issue male, with such provisions as shall be judged proper.

The humble Address of the Archbishop, the Bishops, and the Clergy of the Province of Canterbury, in Convocation assembled; presented to his Majesty on Wednesday, the 21st day of May, 1746.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Archbishop, Bishops, and Clergy of the province of Canterbury, in convocation assembled, unanimously beg leave to profess, in your sacred presence, our most unfeigned and devout thankfulness to Almighty God, for the complete and important victory vouchsafed to your Majesty's forces over your rebellious subjects, supported by the avowed and implacable enemies of your royal dignity, and these your kingdoms.

It is evident to all the world, that on the stability of your Majesty's throne, and on the succession of the crown in your august family, depend, under divine Providence, the security of our holy religion and of all our civil rights, and even our

being as a protestant and free people. Never, therefore, was there any joy more transporting and universal than every where appeared among all orders and degrees of men, on the happy defeat of the late wicked and traitorous attempts.

Your faithful clergy, always the devoted objects of popish malice and cruelty, humbly desire to present from grateful hearts their dutiful acknowledgments to your most gracious Majesty; their chief human defence, as for your constant protection and favour, so for your wise and seasonable care of the public safety, in committing the conduct of your armies to that illustrious Prince, who, through the blessing of Heaven on his heroic virtues, early copied from your royal example, hath been the glorious instrument of this great and ever-memorable deliverance.

May the watchful Providence of God still continue to guard and preserve your sacred life; may it please him to bless your arms and counsels with fresh and constant successes against all your domestic and foreign enemies; and after a long and happy reign over an obedient and grateful people, may you be rewarded with an immortal crown of glory.

His Majesty's Answer, May 21, 1746.

My Lords, and the rest of the Clergy,

I THANK you for this affectionate address, and your congratulations on the success of my arms under the command of my son the Duke, against the rebels. The zeal which you so early and so remarkably shewed throughout the kingdom against these attempts of our enemies, did not fail to have the best effect; of which I have a just sense. You may depend upon my firm resolution to support and protect the church of England as by law established.

His Majesty's most gracious Speech, August 12, 1746.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I CANNOT put an end to this session of Parliament without expressing to you my entire satisfaction in your proceedings. The zeal and vigour which you have so unanimously shewn for the support of my government; for suppressing the late rebellion; and for bringing the guilty to justice, in which you have been so universally seconded by my good subjects; have not only fully answered my expectations, but give me the best assurance that you are determined to perfect this good work, by settling

settling our tranquillity at home upon solid foundations; and extinguishing the hopes of the Pretender and all his adherents.

The powers which you thought fit to repose in me on this occasion have been employed in the most proper and effectual manner, and made strictly subservient to those purposes only for which you intended them: and it has pleased the divine Providence, in a most signal manner, to bless the measures we have taken with success. I am very sensible, there are matters of great moment still behind, which are necessary for our lasting security, and preventing the like calamities for the future; but as a foundation is prudently laid for your proceeding upon them in the next session, I was unwilling to detain you longer out of your respective countries, at this advanced season of the year.

I have the satisfaction to acquaint you, that the posture of affairs abroad appears more favourable than when I last spoke to you. As soon as the safety of my own kingdoms would permit, I sent such a body of troops as could be spared from hence, to strengthen the allied army in the Netherlands, for the defence of the United Provinces, and opposing the further progress of France on that side. By means of this succour, and the other powerful assistances which you have enabled me to furnish, that army has been very considerably augmented, and is become much stronger than was expected at the beginning of the year. This event, together with the happy successes of the Austrian and Sardinian armies in Italy, and some other incidents, which have happened to the advantage of the common cause, give us a better prospect of bringing our enemies to reason, and procuring a safe and honourable peace, which is my great end and aim.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

That great readiness and cheerfulness with which you have granted me the supplies for the current year, require my particular thanks. I am very sensible of the extraordinary difficulties which the circumstances of the times brought upon this important service, and upon the public credit in general, and which nothing but your prudence and firmness could have overcome. What you have given shall be strictly applied to the purposes you intended: and you cannot but have observed my desire to lessen the public expense, as far as possible, by taking the first opportunity to disband those regiments, which the laudable and active zeal of several of my faithful subjects of the first rank and distinction had added to our strength on this occasion.

My

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I have had such ample experience of your unshaken fidelity, and of your affection and attachment to me and my family, that I rely with the utmost confidence on your future conduct. I cannot doubt that during this recess you will, in your several stations, use your utmost endeavours to restore and preserve the peace of the kingdom; to heal the wounds which this unnatural rebellion may have made; and to encourage and cultivate in my subjects that spirit of loyalty, and of zeal for the present establishment, which has so remarkably appeared: the impressions of it shall ever remain upon my mind, and be demonstrated by the continuance of my vigilance and endeavours to make them a happy people.

And afterwards the Lord Chancellor, by his Majesty's command, said,

My Lords and Gentlemen,

IT is his Majesty's royal will and pleasure, that this Parliament be prorogued to Tuesday, the thirtieth day of September next, to be then here held: and this Parliament is accordingly prorogued to Tuesday, the thirtieth day of September next.

His Majesty's most gracious Speech, November 18, 1746.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I HAVE called you together as early as the late conclusion of the last session of Parliament, and the situation of public affairs, would permit. During this recess, I have been particularly attentive to extinguish any remains of the late rebellion, and to re-establish and secure our tranquillity at home, so far as depended upon me. The rest I have reason to expect from your zeal and prudent deliberations; of which the foundation already laid gives me well-grounded hopes.

In the mean time the state of the war abroad has received a considerable alteration. Though France has made some further progress in the Netherlands, yet the United Provinces, whose interests are so strictly connected with our's, have been preserved from that danger which threatened them at the opening of the campaign; and a considerable army remains there for their defence. It has pleased God to bless the arms of my good allies the Empress Queen of Hungary and the King of Sardinia, with
signal

signal success in Italy. The acquisitions made there by our enemies have been recovered from them; their forces, broken and almost ruined, have been obliged to evacuate that country; and an irruption is now actually making into France, whereby the distresses of that kingdom must be greatly increased, and a proportionable diversion made in favour of the Low Countries.

I have often assured you, that my sole aim in carrying on this just and necessary war is a safe and honourable peace. In this view I have shewed a sincere disposition towards a general pacification. I have consented to the holding of conferences at Breda, in order to try whether our enemies will, in the event, agree to such terms and conditions as may be consistent with the honour of my crown, the security and true interests of my kingdoms, and my engagements to my allies, whom it is my firm resolution not to abandon.

But whilst we are treating of peace, reason and good policy demand that we should be prepared for war. I am therefore actually concerting with my allies the proper measures for vigorously pursuing the war in another campaign, in case the obstinacy of our enemies should render it necessary. My desire is to adjust these measures as speedily as possible, that our preparations may be early; that the confederate army in the Netherlands may be augmented in time; and the operations on the side of Italy carried on with effect. It shall also be my particular care to exert our strength at sea, in the most effectual manner, for the defence of my kingdoms and possessions, the protection of the trade of my subjects, and the annoyance of our enemies.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I have ordered the estimates for the ensuing year to be prepared and laid before you; and desire you to grant me such supplies as shall be requisite for your own security, and for carrying on such measures as it shall be necessary for Great Britain to pursue in the present important conjuncture. It gives me much concern to be obliged at the same time to acquaint you, that, by reason of the unavoidable accidents and consequences of war, the funds appropriated for the support of my civil government have, for some years past, fallen greatly short of the revenue intended and granted by Parliament: I therefore rely on your known affection to me, to find out some method to make good this deficiency.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

Nothing is so valuable and essential to me, as your vigorous support: on this I depend; and I trust you will demonstrate it by the zeal, unanimity, and dispatch of your proceedings.

Address

Address to his Majesty by the House of Lords, Nov. 19, 1746.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Lords spiritual and temporal, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to return your Majesty our humble thanks for your most gracious speech from the throne.

Your Majesty has given fresh proofs of your paternal goodness and care of your kingdoms, in your vigilance to extinguish any remains of the late rebellion, and to secure and re-establish our tranquillity at home. That unnatural and flagitious enterprise, formed and supported by our most inveterate enemies, as it was aimed against your crown and royal family, struck at the very foundations of the happiness of your people. Your Majesty may therefore be assured that, out of duty and affection to your Majesty, and love to our country, our most zealous endeavours shall be exerted to perfect that good work, which by your arms and by your justice has hitherto been so successfully conducted; and to make such regulations as may be most conducive to the preventing the like evils for the future, and to the repose and security of the whole united kingdom.

Though we beheld with concern the progress made by our enemies in the Netherlands, yet it gives us great satisfaction to see the States General of the United Provinces, those ancient and natural allies of Great Britain, still preserved from the ambitious and destructive projects formed against them. At the same time we rejoice in the signal successes with which it has pleased God to bless the magnanimity and steadiness of the Empress Queen of Hungary, and the King of Sardinia, in Italy. Nothing can be more conformable to the just expectations of this nation, or can contribute more to the advantage of the common cause, and to make France feel those distresses which that power has endeavoured to bring upon others, than the effectual prosecution of those successes by a powerful invasion of its dominions on that side.

With the utmost gratitude we acknowledge your Majesty's tender regard for your people, in shewing so sincere a disposition towards a general pacification on safe and honourable terms. Your Majesty's arms, taken up only for the just defence of your own rights and those of your kingdoms, and of the common liberty, will always be directed by that desirable end. And we beg leave, with great humility, to express our concurrence in that opinion which your Majesty has been pleased so wisely to declare to your Parliament, that reason and prudence require
our

our being early prepared for another campaign, in case the obstinacy of our enemies should render it necessary.

On this account we should be inexcusable, if we did not return your Majesty our sincere thanks for your timely care to enter into a concert with your allies on the proper measures for that purpose; and for your gracious resolution to exert your naval strength in the most effectual manner, for the protection of the most valuable interests of your subjects, and for striking terror into your enemies.

We beseech your Majesty to accept the strongest assurances of our zealous and hearty support in these your salutary views and intentions; and that we will cheerfully concur in all such measures as shall be requisite to strengthen your Majesty's hands, either for procuring such a peace as may be consistent with the honour of your crown, the true interest of your people; and your engagements to your allies, or for prosecuting the war with vigour: and we beg leave to renew to your Majesty the most unfeigned professions of our entire conviction that the prosperity and well-being of these kingdoms do, under God, depend on our being secured against the ambitious designs of France, and on the preservation of your Majesty's government, and of the protestant succession in your royal house.

His Majesty's Answer, November 19, 1746.

My Lords,

I THANK you for this dutiful and affectionate address. The just sense you express of the present posture of affairs, and your assurances of supporting me and my allies in procuring a good peace, or prosecuting the war with vigour, give me entire satisfaction. The confidence you repose in me shall always be used for the true interests of my people.

Address by the House of Commons, November 19, 1746.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons of Great Britain, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to return our humble thanks for your Majesty's most gracious speech from the throne.

We are truly sensible of your Majesty's particular attention to extinguish the remains of the late rebellion: and we beg leave to assure your Majesty that we will not fail on our parts to answer your just expectations, by taking all such further measures

asures as shall appear conducive to re-establish, upon a lasting foundation, the security and tranquillity of your Majesty's government.

We most heartily congratulate your Majesty upon the signal success with which it has pleased God to bless the arms of your allies in Italy. The wise and vigorous measures they are jointly pursuing to improve it, by the irruption now actually making into France, give us just ground to hope, that by the happy consequences of that operation the distresses of our enemies may be so increased, and such advantages gained over them, as may balance in a great measure the losses sustained in the other part of the continent.

We acknowledge, with the deepest sense of gratitude, your Majesty's great care and paternal tenderness for your people, expressed in your Majesty's endeavours to procure a general pacification: and we do at the same time, with the greatest duty and affection, assure your Majesty, that your faithful Commons will grant such timely and adequate supplies, as may, with the hearty concurrence and united efforts of your allies, enable your Majesty either to carry on the war in the most effectual manner both by sea and land, or to obtain such a peace as may be consistent with the honour of your crown, your engagements to your allies, and the true interest of your people.

We do humbly assure your Majesty, that we will take into our consideration and make good whatever deficiencies shall appear to us to have arisen in the funds appropriated for the support of your Majesty's civil government: and in this, and all other matters recommended to us by your Majesty we will proceed with that zeal, dispatch, and unanimity, as shall manifest to the world our dutiful attachment to your Majesty's person and government, and our constant attention to the welfare and prosperity of your kingdoms.

His Majesty's Answer, November 20, 1746.

Gentlemen,

I THANK you for this dutiful and affectionate address.

The firmness you shew on this occasion will, I doubt not, produce good effects.

Whatever provisions you shall find necessary in the present exigencies, you may depend on my employing for the welfare of my kingdoms and the prosperity of my people.

His

His Majesty's most gracious Speech, June 17, 1747.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

NOTHING could have been more acceptable to me, than the zeal and dispatch with which you have gone through the public business during the course of this session. The care and attention you have shewn to extinguish any remains of the late rebellion, and to strengthen the foundations of our future tranquillity by new provisions, as well for restoring the proper authority of the government in North Britain, as for better securing the liberties of the people there, cannot fail to have the most beneficial consequences.

The great efforts you have made for carrying on the war in a vigorous manner, have shewn you not to be less attentive to our foreign than to our domestic interests. They have given spirit to my allies; and enabled me, in conjunction with them, to bring a numerous and powerful army early into the field; and to maintain strong squadrons at sea for the protection and defence of our trade and possessions, the annoyance of our enemies, and for supporting and enforcing the operations of my allies in Italy. The invasion made by France upon the territories of the States General of the United Provinces, has had a different effect from what our enemies promised themselves from it. The voluntary and speedy succour which I sent on that occasion was received with the utmost joy, and has been of great use; and the States have thereupon not only resolved on a great augmentation of their forces, which is actually making, but have taken such steps as must convince our enemies how determined they are vigorously to support their own independency, and the interest of the common cause. I have the peculiar satisfaction to acquaint you, that the union between Great Britain and the Republic, so necessary for both nations, was never more cordial, or better established, than it is at present.

The signal success which, by the blessing of God, has already attended my fleet, has happily disappointed some very pernicious projects of our enemies, and given a considerable blow to their naval strength, as well as to their commerce; which will be the most probable means of reducing them to reason. This is the great object which I have at heart; the sole view of all my measures being to put an end to the calamities of war by a safe and honourable peace.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I must acknowledge in a particular manner the zeal and application with which you have raised the necessary supplies

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for the service of the current year; and your readiness in making good the deficiency of the civil list funds, arising from the unavoidable consequences of war, is a fresh instance of that regard and affection which I have always experienced from you. To be able to effectuate all this immediately, after the suppressing of an unnatural and expensive rebellion, and under the burdens of war, must set the strength and credit of the nation in the highest light, and secure to the crown of Great Britain that weight and respect, both with its friends and enemies, which justly belong to it.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

After the examples of justice which have been found necessary, I have with pleasure taken the very first opportunity of doing what is more agreeable to my own inclination, the passing an Act of Grace. The good effect I promise myself from hence is, to heal in some measure those wounds which have been made, and re-establish the quiet of the kingdom; since by this act the generality of those who have been deluded from their duty will find themselves restored to security, and to the protection of those laws which they had endeavoured to subvert. A just sense of this early mercy will, I hope, induce them to make such returns of loyalty and gratitude as so strong an obligation requires.

As this Parliament would necessarily determine in a short time, and as nothing will give so much weight and credit to our affairs abroad in the present conjuncture, as to shew the dependence I have upon the affections of my people, I have judged it expedient speedily to call a new Parliament. But I should think myself inexcusable if I parted with this without publicly returning you my thanks for the many eminent instances you have given me of your inviolable fidelity and attachment to my person and government, and your unshaken adherence to the true interest of your country, and the protestant succession in my family. By the Divine blessing, and your vigorous assistance, I have been enabled to crush and defeat the most audacious attempt that has ever been made to overturn the present establishment; and, at the same time, to furnish that support to our ancient and natural allies, which has already disappointed some of the most dangerous views of ambition with which our enemies began the war. Such extraordinary merit, as it will always be gratefully remembered by me, must endear the memory of this Parliament to posterity. From such demonstrations of the loyalty and affection of my faithful subjects, I do, with the utmost satisfaction, repose myself upon them; and do, not in the least doubt of receiving

new proofs of the same good disposition in the choice of their representatives.

I have nothing so much at heart as the preservation of the civil and religious rights of my people, and the maintenance of the true greatness and prosperity of this nation. From these principles I will never deviate, and in these principles every true Briton will concur. Let this appear by your conduct in the present conjuncture; and let no false arts or misrepresentations take place to interrupt, or weaken that confidence and harmony between me and my people which have been, and ever will be, productive of such happy effects.

Then the Lord Chancellor, by his Majesty's command, said,

My Lords and Gentlemen,

IT is his Majesty's royal will and pleasure, that this Parliament be prorogued to Thursday, the ninth day of July next, to be then here held: and this Parliament is accordingly prorogued to Thursday, the ninth day of July next.

His Majesty's most gracious Speech, Nov. 12, 1747.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

AS one of my principal views in calling this Parliament was, that I might receive the most clear and certain information of the sense of my people on the present posture of affairs, I was desirous to meet you as early as your own convenience, as well as that of the public, would admit.

By the advice of my Parliament I entered into the war against Spain, in order to vindicate and secure the trade and commerce of my subjects. By their advice also, and in conformity to my engagements, I undertook the support of the Empress Queen of Hungary, and of the just rights of the house of Austria. In resentment for this conduct, so necessary for the interests of my own kingdoms, and of the ancient allies of my crown, France not only declared war against me, but fomented and supported an unnatural rebellion within this kingdom. In carrying on this just and necessary war, I have found the most cheerful and vigorous support from my Parliament: and though the success has not been answerable to our wishes and just expectations, in the Low Countries, yet it must be allowed, to the honour of this nation, that no part of the misfortunes can be imputed to us.

The signal successes which it has pleased God to grant us at sea, have made the enemy feel the weight of our naval strength, to their great loss, and the real and solid advantage of this nation. This has appeared most remarkably in the operations of my fleet this last year; which have tended no less to the honour of the British flag, than to the reduction of the maritime force and commerce of France. The government of the United Provinces has, once more, resumed that consistency which will give great strength to the common cause; cement more firmly the friendship between this kingdom and that republic: and be a lasting security to our inseparable interests. One great effect of this happy alteration in Holland has already appeared in the vigorous declaration lately made by the States General to the court of France; and the orders given by them for committing hostilities every where against the French King and his subjects.

Some overtures for a general pacification have lately been made to me on the part of France; and though some of the terms proposed were such as could not be approved, yet as I have had no other aim, but to bring about a safe and honourable peace, I have shewn the utmost inclination to facilitate it, in conjunction with my allies; and a congress is actually agreed to be held at Aix la Chapelle, whither the several ministers will soon repair. I hope all the powers concerned will bring with them the same dispositions to effectuate this great work, on just and reasonable conditions, which I sincerely have.

In this situation I am confident you will agree in opinion with me, that it is necessary to be vigilant and attentive to every event; and that there can be no reason to expect a good peace, but by being timely prepared to carry on a vigorous and effectual war. I therefore rely on your hearty and powerful support to enable me to prosecute the war, in case the obstinacy of our enemies, in not agreeing to just and reasonable terms of accommodation, should render it unavoidable. For this purpose I am now actually concerting the necessary measures with my allies, whose interests I am determined to adhere to and support. Let us be in readiness, in case the negotiations should fail of the desired effect, to convince our enemies how much they are mistaken if they vainly imagine that Great Britain, and her allies, will submit to receive the law from any power whatsoever; and demonstrate to the world that we will decline no difficulty or hazard for the preservation of the common liberty, and our own independency and essential interests.

Gentlemen

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

The necessity of adequate supplies appears from what has been already mentioned. The proper estimates for the services of the ensuing year shall be laid before you ; and I desire you to grant me such supplies as your own security and lasting welfare, and the present critical and important situation of affairs, require. You may depend on their being applied only to the purposes for which they shall be given ; and if, by the falling out of events, any saving can be made, it shall be duly accounted for.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

If any farther provisions shall be found expedient, to render more effectual the good laws lately made for the security of the present establishment, extinguishing the spirit of rebellion, and for the better civilizing, improving, and reducing into order, any part of the united kingdom, I depend on your known affection to me and to your country, seriously and early to set about so good a work. I will only add, that there never was a conjuncture in which unanimity, firmness, and dispatch were more necessary, for the safety, honour, and true interest of Great Britain.

Address by the House of Lords, November 13, 1747.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Lords spiritual and temporal, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to return your Majesty our humble thanks for your most gracious speech from the throne.

The generous and public spirited views with which your Majesty entered into this just and necessary war, are evident to the whole world ; and your people have been the more strongly animated to support it, by the part your enemies have taken, not only to overturn the liberties of Europe in general, but to disturb your Majesty's government, the solid foundation of our happiness. The events of war are always uncertain ; but at the same time that we see, with the greatest concern, the misfortunes which have happened in the Low Countries, we gratefully acknowledge your Majesty's goodness and justice in vindicating the honour of this nation from any imputation arising from thence.

With unfeigned joy we congratulate your Majesty on the signal successes with which it has pleased God to bless your arms by sea. No loss can be more sensibly felt by your ene-

mies, and no advantage tend more to the glory and real benefit of your kingdoms, whose commerce and naval strength must be increased in proportion as that of France is diminished.

We cannot approach your royal person on this occasion without expressing our highest satisfaction in those events which have happened in Holland in favour of a Prince allied to your Majesty by the nearest ties, descended from an illustrious House, in which the defence of public liberty has been hereditary, and which has produced deliverers of this country, as well as of that protestant republic. From this happy alteration we cannot but promise ourselves the strictest union of councils between your Majesty and the States General, and an additional strength in pursuing such measures as shall be most conducive to the common good of both nations; of which we consider the seasonable declaration lately made by the States to the court of France, and the orders given thereupon, as a strong indication.

Your Majesty's paternal concern for your people appears in nothing more, than in your sincere desire to bring about, in conjunction with your allies, an honourable peace on just and reasonable terms. At the same time that we offer our humble thanks to your Majesty for this gracious disposition to procure ease and repose to your subjects by effectuating this great work, permit us to assure you, that we are convinced by past experience, as well as by your Majesty's prudent declaration, that the only way to procure a good peace, is to be prepared to carry on a vigorous and effectual war. For this reason we cannot but gratefully acknowledge your Majesty's vigilance and care to enter into a timely concert with your allies, in order to be in readiness for that event.

We beg leave, from the bottom of our hearts, to give your Majesty the strongest assurances of our inviolable fidelity and affection to your sacred person, family, and government; and that we will heartily and cheerfully concur to enable your Majesty to prosecute the war with vigour, in case the obstinacy of your enemies should render it necessary; no difficulty or hazard being capable of lessening our zeal and steadiness for the maintenance of the honour of your crown, the independency and essential interests of your kingdoms, and for the defence of your allies.

We will not fail to take into our serious consideration what further provisions may be expedient for better securing the present happy establishment, extinguishing the spirit of rebellion, and for reforming and reducing into order such parts of the united kingdom where the want of improvement, knowledge, and due obedience to the laws, has remarkably furnished opportunities

portunities to seduce the people from their loyalty. The stability of your Majesty's throne, the glory and tranquillity of your reign, and the prosperity of our fellow subjects, we have entirely at heart ; and our utmost firmness, resolution, and dispatch, shall be exerted to attain those desirable ends which your Majesty has so wisely and graciously recommended to us.

His Majesty's Answer, November 13, 1747.

My Lords,

NOTHING could give me greater satisfaction than this dutiful and affectionate address. I heartily thank you for it ; and do not doubt but the becoming zeal you have unanimously expressed, and your ready concurrence in my sentiments, will have a very good effect, both with our friends and enemies ; and strengthen my hands to pursue such measures, either of peace or war, as shall be most conducive to the interests of my kingdoms, and the support of my allies.

Address by the House of Commons, Nov. 17, 1747.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons of Great Britain, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to return your Majesty our unfeigned thanks for your most gracious speech from the throne.

With hearts full of the sincerest joy we congratulate your Majesty on the great and important successes which it has pleased Almighty God to bestow on your Majesty's arms at sea, and which not only redound highly to the honour of the British nation, but, by reducing the maritime force of France, manifestly tend to the security of your Majesty's government, and the prosperity and trade of these kingdoms.

We beg leave to express to your Majesty the great and just satisfaction we have received from the happy settlement of the government of the United Provinces, in which a Prince so nearly allied to your Majesty has so great a share ; nor can we doubt, but that the good effect resulting from that settlement will be a thorough union of councils between your Majesty and the republic ; more especially as the vigorous declaration lately made by the States General to the court of France, gives us the strongest presumption, that in all measures, whether of peace or war, which shall be deemed for the honour, interest,

and security of these kingdoms, and that republic, they will co-operate zealously and firmly with your Majesty.

With the deepest sense of gratitude we acknowledge your Majesty's paternal care for the welfare of your subjects, in the sincere disposition your Majesty has shewn for a general pacification, by hearkening to the overtures lately made for that purpose, and endeavouring, on your Majesty's part, to bring about a speedy, safe, and honourable conclusion to this burthensome and expensive, though just and necessary war.

But if, contrary to our wishes and expectations, the enemies of Great Britain, by insisting on unreasonable and inadmissible terms, make the continuance of the war unavoidable, we beg leave to give your Majesty our most determined assurances, that we will support your Majesty to the utmost: and, in order to convince our enemies of this our steadfast resolution, we will immediately grant such supplies as may, in conjunction with your Majesty's allies, enable your Majesty to carry on the war with vigour, maintain the honour and dignity of the crown of Great Britain, and support the mutual interest of your Majesty, and your allies.

At the same time permit us to assure your Majesty, that we shall be ready to contribute our assistance towards perfecting and rendering more effectual those provisions which have been already made for securing the interior peace of these kingdoms, and establishing your Majesty's throne upon the most firm and lasting foundations.

His Majesty's Answer, November 24, 1747.

Gentlemen,

THE early marks of trust and confidence which you repose in me by this address, give me the greatest satisfaction.

You may be assured, that I have nothing more at heart than to put, as soon as possible, such an end to the present troubles as may be consistent with the good of my people, the security of my allies, and the honour and true interests of my kingdoms.

The humble Address of the Archbishop, the Bishops, and the Clergy of the Province of Canterbury, in Convocation assembled; presented to his Majesty on Thursday, the twenty-fourth Day of March, 1748.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Archbishop, Bishops, and Clergy, of the province of Canterbury,

terbury, in convocation assembled, beg leave to approach your royal throne, and to renew those professions of fidelity and obedience to your Majesty which we have often solemnly made, and which proceed from fixed and unalterable principles in our hearts.

Your Majesty's paternal care of your kingdoms, exerted in the vigilant defence of them, against the encroachments of an ambitious foreign enemy, and the wicked and traitorous attempts of domestic ones, in your strict adherence to the laws, and your wise concern and provision for the regular and equal administration of them, in your merciful and generous use of your prerogative, in your preservation of our established church (the purest model of ecclesiastical government) consistently with the rights and liberties of all your subjects, and in a most extensive attention to every thing that can make us a flourishing and happy people, is the subject of our daily observation and daily praise. By such a conduct your Majesty has justly attained that sovereign degree of affection and reverence to your royal person, which is the true glory of a king, and the firmest support of his throne.

It was matter of the utmost satisfaction to your faithful clergy, and afforded them the most comfortable prospect of your happy reign, that, at the beginning of it, your Majesty was pleased to give them the most early assurances of your firm resolution to maintain the church of England, and to secure to us the free profession of our most holy religion. Your Majesty has kept your royal word, and we cannot sufficiently express our thankfulness for that constancy and zeal with which your Majesty has protected the protestant cause, both in your own dominions, and wherever else it is professed.

We take the present opportunity, by your gracious permission, to assure your Majesty, that it is our steady resolution to do every thing within the compass of our profession, and which may be in our power to make your government easy, and your reign glorious; and, as the best testimony of our sincerity towards God, and the surest method of drawing down his blessings on the arms and councils of your Majesty, we will make it our business, as it is our duty, to explain the doctrines, live up to the rules, and copy the temper enjoined us by our excellent religion, the natural means of preserving and exalting a Christian nation; and (if God for our sins does not suspend those good effects) of stopping the mouth of infidelity, and checking the spirit of that licentiousness which abounds to the dishonour, and tends to the ruin of our country.

It is a maxim taught us by experience which will, we trust, for ever secure your Majesty and your descendants in the pos-

session of this imperial crown, that the people of Great Britain can never be safe and happy, but under this limited monarchy, administered according to our laws and constitution; and in keeping clear of the yoke of that corrupted and intolerable religion, which is not more repugnant to the gospel of Christ, than it is to the natural rights and interests of men.

May the good providence of God, Sir, ever protect your sacred person; may your reign be long and prosperous; and may there never be wanting in your royal family a race of princes, who, after the example of your Majesty, shall be the defenders of our faith, and the guardians of our civil liberties, against all the attempts of popery and arbitrary power.

His Majesty's Answer, March 24, 1748.

My Lords, and the rest of the Clergy,

THESE affectionate assurances of your duty and fidelity to me, and of your zeal for my government, give me great satisfaction. I have nothing more at heart than the preservation of the protestant interest, both at home and abroad; and it shall continue to be my particular care to protect and support the church of England, as by law established; and the religious and civil rights of all my people.

Message from his Majesty to the House of Commons, April 18, 1748.

GEORGE REX.

THE court of session in Scotland having, in pursuance of an act of the last session of Parliament, finished the examination thereby directed, touching the titles and values of the several heritable jurisdictions and offices, claimed before that court, and made a certificate of their opinions thereupon to his Majesty in his privy council; and all the said jurisdictions and offices being actually extinguished, or resumed and annexed to the crown respectively, from the 25th day of March last, his Majesty has commanded a copy of the said certificate to be laid before this House; and recommends it to his faithful Commons, to make provision for the payment of such reasonable and just compensation and satisfaction to the proprietors of those jurisdictions and offices, as was by the said act intended and directed.

His

His Majesty's most gracious Speech, May 13, 1748.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

AT the opening of this session of Parliament I informed you, that a congress had been agreed upon by the several powers at war; and I have now the satisfaction to acquaint you, that preliminaries for restoring a general peace have been signed between my minister and those of the Most Christian King, and the States General of the United Provinces; the basis of which is a general restitution of conquests made during the war on all sides.

In consequence of these preliminaries, which have been ratified by all the contracting parties, a cessation of hostilities has actually taken place in the Low Countries and in the Channel; and certain periods are fixed, according to former practice, for its commencement in other parts of the world.

In this important transaction my great views have been, steadily to adhere to the true interests of Europe, to pursue and maintain those of my own kingdoms in particular, and to procure for my allies the best terms and conditions that the events of a war, in some parts unsuccessful, did admit.

I have, in the course of this negotiation, acted with the most unreserved confidence and communication towards my allies: and I hope, that when they shall have maturely weighed the situation of affairs, the necessity from thence arising, and the care and attention which have been shewn for their advantage and security, they will not delay to accede to these preliminary articles, but concur in effectuating the good work of peace.

The vigorous and powerful support you have given me during this session, towards carrying on the war, has strengthened my hands in proceeding thus far in the measures of peace. No body can suggest the least failure on the part of Great Britain; which, not only for the sake of its own particular interest, but of the common cause, has taken on itself a share of the burden unexampled in former times. I hope soon to see this necessary work brought to perfection with the concurrence of all my allies, with whom it is my firm intention to cultivate the most perfect harmony, and to cement and strengthen, if possible, the ties of our ancient union and friendship in such a manner as may render the peace secure and durable.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

My particular thanks are due to you for the ample provision you have made for the service of the current year. Nothing could have contributed so much to the putting an end to the
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calamities of war, and reducing our future expenses, as these well-judged supplies. The most prudent œconomy shall be made use of in the application of them; and you may be assured, nothing will give me more real pleasure than to take the first opportunity of lessening the present burdens of my people.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I cannot sufficiently express my entire satisfaction in your whole conduct during this session; and I must recommend it to you, to promote in your several countries a right sense of those measures which have been so necessarily taken for the security and ease of my people. As it is the earnest desire of my heart to see the crown of Great Britain maintain that figure, strength, and weight, in making war and peace, which justly belong to it, it is equally so, to see my good subjects enjoy the blessings of tranquillity and prosperity.

And afterwards the Lord Chancellor, by his Majesty's command, said,

My Lords and Gentlemen,

IT is his Majesty's royal will and pleasure, that this Parliament be prorogued until Thursday, the thirtieth day of June next, to be then here held; and this Parliament is accordingly prorogued until Thursday, the thirtieth day of June next.

His Majesty's most gracious Speech, Nov. 29, 1748.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I ACQUAINTED you at the close of the last session of Parliament, that preliminary articles for a general pacification had been signed by my ministers and those of the Most Christian King and the States General of the United Provinces; to which the Empress Queen of Hungary, the Kings of Spain and Sardinia, and the other powers engaged in the war, soon afterwards acceded.

I lost no time in taking the proper measures with my allies, for effectuating a general peace by a definitive treaty, in which all parties were to concur: and notwithstanding the difficulties which must attend so extensive a work, wherein the respective interests of so many powers were to be finally adjusted by common consent, I have been able, by the blessing of God, in the course of the summer, to complete it; and I have the pleasure to acquaint you, that a definitive treaty, previously

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concerted with my allies, has been signed by my ministers and those of France and the States General ; to which all the other powers concerned in the war have acceded without reserve.

It has been my chief endeavour, in putting an end to the calamities of war, to make the most effectual provision for securing the rights and interests of my own subjects, and to procure the best terms and conditions for my allies that the situation of affairs would admit : and I take much satisfaction in being able to tell you, that I have found a general good disposition in all the parties engaged in the war, to bring this negotiation to a happy conclusion. From these circumstances we may promise ourselves, under God, a long enjoyment of the blessings of peace, provided we make the right use and improvement of it.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

As great a progress has been made towards reducing the public expenses as the nature of the case would allow ; and I only desire you to grant me such supplies as may be requisite for the service of the current year, for your own security, and for making good such engagements as have been already entered into, and laid before you. Times of tranquillity are the proper seasons for lessening the national debt, and strengthening ourselves against future events ; and, as the necessary means for these purposes, I must recommend to you the improvement of the public revenue, and the maintaining our naval force in proper strength and vigour.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

It is impossible for me to speak to you on this subject of the happy re-establishment of the public tranquillity without returning you my sincerest thanks for the great and affectionate support you have given me, in carrying on this just and necessary war ; in which not only the common cause of Europe, but our own independency and essential interests, were highly concerned : as the extraordinary burdens which it brought upon my good subjects gave me much uneasiness, so I could not but wish to see as speedy an end put to them as possible. Whatever the events of war may have been, the bravery of my troops has distinguished itself on every occasion to their lasting honour ; and our signal successes at sea must ever be remembered to the glory of the British fleet, and entitle it to the particular attention and support of this nation. You will further consider, that those brave men, who have served well
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by sea or land, and cannot now be employed, justly deserve to be the objects of your favour and protection.

As my first care has been to take the most early measures, that my people may, as soon as possible, reap the benefits of peace, so I doubt not of your cheerful assistance in perfecting this good work. Let me earnestly recommend to you the advancement of our commerce, and cultivating the arts of peace, in which you may depend on my hearty concurrence and encouragement. It shall be my endeavour to continue these blessings, by a punctual execution of the engagements now taken, and by maintaining the most perfect harmony and good correspondence with the friends and allies of Great Britain.

The experience I have had of you, makes me rely on the zeal, unanimity, and dispatch of your proceedings; and you may be assured, that nothing shall be wanting on my part to make you a flourishing and happy people.

Address by the House of Lords, Nov. 30, 1748.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Lords spiritual and temporal, in Parliament assembled, return your Majesty our humble thanks for your most gracious speech from the throne.

The joy which all your faithful subjects feel on your Majesty's safe and happy return into this kingdom is incapable of any addition; but it gives us, at this time, a peculiar satisfaction, as it is accompanied with a general peace, effectuated by your Majesty's prudence and firmness, and with the concurrence of all your allies. On the successful conclusion of this great work we heartily congratulate your Majesty; and, with the utmost thankfulness, acknowledge your wisdom and indefatigable labours in carrying on the late just and necessary war, entered into for supporting the liberties of Europe, and securing the independency and most essential interests of this kingdom. We are equally sensible of the tender regard your Majesty has shewn for your people in the re-establishment of public tranquillity.

We cannot be ignorant of the many difficulties which must have attended this important and extensive negotiation; and we look upon it as a great instance of your Majesty's vigilant and active care for the public welfare, that it has been brought to perfection, in concert with, and with the concurrence of, so many powers in so short a time.

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With hearts full of duty of affection, we offer our thanks to your Majesty for your paternal goodness, in considering with so much tenderness the burdens of your subjects, and in taking the very first opportunity to give them ease, and to enable them to reap the benefits of the pacification. Excited by your gracious example, and our love to our country, we assure your Majesty of our cheerful and hearty concurrence in all such measures as may tend to perfect what your Majesty has so prudently begun; may improve our trade and commerce; promote quiet and harmony at home, and render the blessings of peace, under the Divine protection, general and lasting to your people. In doing this, we will never fail to have the utmost attention to the honour of your Majesty's crown, the stability of your throne, and the safety of your kingdoms.

We have a just sense of the distinguished behaviour of your Majesty's forces by sea and land during the war. We look upon them as an honour and strength to their country: and we applaud that goodness which your Majesty has expressed in recommending such of them as cannot now be employed, to the favour and protection of Parliament. Your Majesty's sentiments concerning the naval force of this kingdom are highly worthy of a King of Great Britain, who has the honour and interest of this nation entirely at heart; and the signal success that has attended it in the war, as well as the consequences to be derived from it for maintaining the peace, cannot fail to shew the necessity of giving the utmost attention to the support and encouragement of the fleet.

Permit us, Sir, upon this happy occasion of approaching your royal throne, to give your Majesty the strongest assurances of our inviolable duty and fidelity to your sacred person, and our zeal for the preservation of the protestant succession in your illustrious house, the great bulwark of our religion and liberties. To these principles we will always steadfastly adhere; and we faithfully promise your Majesty to exert our utmost endeavours to support you in maintaining that repose which your Majesty has restored to your kingdoms, as well as to preserve and cultivate the most perfect correspondence and union with the friends and allies of Great Britain, and to promote the glory and happiness of your reign.

His Majesty's Answer, November 30, 1748.

My Lords,

I THANK you for this dutiful and affectionate address. The satisfaction you have so unanimously expressed in the measures I have taken, is particularly agreeable to me; and you may

may be assured, that both in war and in peace, my great aim has been, and always shall be, the advancement of the true interests of my people and the support of my allies.

Address by the House of Commons, November 30, 1748.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons of Great Britain, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to return your Majesty our unfeigned thanks for your most gracious speech from the throne, and to congratulate your Majesty on your safe and happy return to these kingdoms.

We acknowledge, with the utmost gratitude, your Majesty's constant attention to the good of your people; and beg leave to congratulate your Majesty on the success of your endeavours for restoring peace to Europe, by the happy conclusion of a definitive treaty, in which all your allies have concurred without reserve; and we cannot, on this occasion, but admire your Majesty's wisdom and conduct, by which you have, in so short a space of time, reconciled and adjusted so many jarring interests, and completed this great and necessary work.

Permit us, Sir, humbly to return your Majesty our thanks for your tender regard to your faithful subjects, in taking the first opportunity to reduce the public expenses, which has been done with unusual dispatch; and we acknowledge equally your Majesty's wisdom in recommending to us œconomy and the improvement of the revenue, both absolutely necessary in our present circumstances, in order to lessen the national debt, ease your people, and strengthen ourselves against all future events; and we assure your Majesty, that we will omit nothing which may conduce to these important and salutary ends.

It gives the highest satisfaction to your faithful Commons, that your Majesty has been graciously pleased to take notice of the bravery of your forces by sea and land, an honour their behaviour has most justly deserved; and we do assure your Majesty, that all due attention shall be paid on our part to the services of those gallant men, who have signalised themselves so gloriously in defence of their country.

We are truly sensible of the importance of that signal success which has attended your Majesty's arms at sea through the course of the war; and are fully convinced how necessary it is to maintain our fleets in perfect strength and order, even in times of the most profound peace. Your faithful Commons beg leave humbly to assure your Majesty, that they will
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grant such supplies as are necessary to secure effectually the peace and tranquillity of your Majesty's government, and to preserve the honour of the nation by making good its engagements; and that the chief objects of our consideration shall be, what your Majesty has so graciously and wisely recommended to us, the improvement of our commerce, the supporting and strengthening of public credit, and the cultivation of the arts of peace, that your Majesty may be enabled to gratify your royal inclinations, by making this nation a flourishing and happy people, under your auspicious government, and that of your royal family, to future generations.

Her Majesty's Answer, December 5, 1748.

Gentlemen,

I THANK you most heartily for this very affectionate address.

You may rely upon my ready concurrence with you in the execution of all such measures as will relieve my people as soon as possible from the burdens which the exigencies of war have laid upon them, and procure to them the blessings of a safe and lasting peace.

*Message from his Majesty to the House of Commons,
March 17, 1749.*

GEORGE REX.

HIS Majesty has received a memorial from the minister of his good sister and ally the Empress Queen of Hungary residing at his court, containing the strongest instances for the speedy payment of one hundred thousand pounds, being part of the sum of four hundred thousand pounds, appropriated, by an act of the last session of Parliament, for enabling the Empress Queen to support her allies, and to maintain her respective contingents of troops in the Low Countries and in Italy for the year 1748, pursuant to treaty. Some difficulties having arisen, in respect of the payment thereof, from the restrictive expressions of the said treaty; and his Majesty being desirous that all reasonable satisfaction may be given to his said good sister and ally in this behalf, recommends the said memorial to the consideration of his faithful Commons.

G. R.

His

His Majesty's most gracious Speech, June 13, 1749.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I COME now to put an end to this session of Parliament, which is become the more necessary, by reason of the advanced season of the year.

The definitive treaty of Aix la Chapelle having been, by my order, laid before you several months ago, you have all been fully informed of the terms and conditions on which it was made; and have already had the satisfaction to see them carried into execution by the several contracting parties with great punctuality and good faith, so far as the time and distance of place would admit. Nothing now remains but to preserve and improve the peace so happily re-established. All the powers concerned have declared themselves in so clear and friendly a manner on this subject, as leaves no room to doubt of their sincere disposition to render the peace lasting in all parts: my earnest desire to promote the welfare of my own subjects, and the general tranquillity of Europe, will make me exert my endeavours for the same good end, by steadily adhering to the engagements I have entered into, and cultivating the most perfect union and harmony with my allies, upon whose ready concurrence in all proper measures for that purpose I have the greatest reason to depend.

It is with great satisfaction I have seen part of this session employed in considerations for advancing the trade and navigation of my kingdoms: I hope, at your next meeting, you will be able to perfect what has now been begun; particularly by taking the proper methods to render our naval force the most useful and serviceable, which is so essential to the protection of our commerce and to our security in all times.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I return you my thanks for the supplies you have granted me, and for the attention you have shewn to maintain the public credit, which I rejoice to see in so flourishing a condition at the end of an expensive, though necessary war. The readiness with which you have enabled me to satisfy the demands of my allies is very agreeable to me, and cannot fail to produce the best effects.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

Let me recommend it to you to improve the advantages of our present situation, for the quiet and stability of my government, and the true interest and happiness of my people; and
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in your several countries to promote such principles and dispositions, as may be most conducive to those desirable ends.

Then the Lord Chancellor, by his Majesty's command, said,

My Lords and Gentlemen,

IT is his Majesty's royal will and pleasure, that this Parliament be prorogued to Thursday, the third day of August next, to be then here held: and this Parliament is accordingly prorogued to Thursday, the third day of August next.

His Majesty's most gracious Speech, November 16, 1749.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

IT is with particular pleasure that I now meet you in Parliament, at a time, when the complete re-establishment of a general peace has restored to my people the blessings of quiet and tranquillity. The good effects resulting from hence do already appear, in the flourishing condition of our commerce, and the rise of the public credit; which naturally lay the surest foundations of an increase of strength, and of lasting prosperity to my kingdoms. I have not failed this summer to make use of every opportunity of cementing and securing the peace; and it is my firm resolution to do every thing in my power for the preservation of it, and religiously to adhere to the engagements I have entered into.

I have the satisfaction to acquaint you, that I have found all the contracting powers in the definitive treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle, as well as the rest of my allies, in the same good disposition; and have no reason to doubt of their concurrence in the same desirable end. It is unnecessary for me to tell you, that nothing can contribute so much to the continuance and improvement of this happy situation of affairs, as the effectual supporting of that weight and influence, which properly belong to the crown of Great Britain.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I have ordered the proper officers to prepare and lay before you the estimates for the service of the ensuing year. I desire such supplies only as shall be found necessary for the security and welfare of the nation: and in that view, I must earnestly recommend to you the maintaining of my fleet in its full strength; and that you would be watchful to improve any opportunity of putting the national debt in a method of being

reduced, with a strict regard to public faith and private property.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I have nothing to desire of you, but that you would, with unanimity and dispatch, pursue such measures, as may be most conducive to your own real and lasting interest. Whatever good laws you shall propose for the advancement of our trade and navigation, and for encouraging a spirit of industry in all parts of the kingdom, will be extremely acceptable to me : and you may rest assured, that I shall always look upon the true greatness of my crown, and the stability of my government, as inseparably united with the happiness and prosperity of my people.

Address by the House of Lords, Nov. 17, 1749.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Lords spiritual and temporal, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to return your Majesty our humble thanks for your most gracious speech from the throne.

The good effects resulting to your kingdoms from the complete re-establishment of the general tranquillity, which are so sensibly felt in our commerce and public credit, are the most interesting subject of our congratulations to your Majesty : but we should fall short of those sentiments which we feel in our breasts on this occasion, if we did not, at the same time, gratefully acknowledge, that, under the Divine protection, these blessings are owing to your royal care and vigilance for the good of your people.

The same gracious concern for our welfare, and for the repose of Europe, has induced your Majesty to improve every opportunity to cement and secure that peace which has been so lately restored to us ; and it gives us great satisfaction to be informed, that this good disposition has been shewn by all the contracting powers in the definitive treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle, and by the rest of your Majesty's allies.

Your Majesty's wife admonition, confirmed by past experience, convinces us, that the effectual maintaining that weight and influence which properly belong to the crown of Great Britain, is essential to the duration and improvement of this happy situation. Our interest, therefore, as well as our duty, obliges us unfeignedly to assure your Majesty of our hearty and zealous concurrence and support in all such measures as
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shall be most conducive to this great end, as well as to the preservation of the peace.

To keep up the naval force of this kingdom in full vigour; to protect and advance its trade and navigation, to encourage and extend a spirit of industry in the nation, are objects truly becoming your royal wisdom: and your Majesty's perseverance in the pursuit of them will always secure to you the hearts and affections of your subjects. Your Majesty could not have given a more acceptable proof of your fixed attention to their welfare, than by recommending these considerations with so much earnestness to your Parliament. The least return we can make for so much goodness is, to promise your Majesty, on our part, the most ready assistance and concurrence in effectuating the proper means for these salutary purposes.

Permit us, from the bottom of our hearts, to give your Majesty the strongest assurances, that we consider the true greatness of your crown, and the stability of your government, as being, under God, the solid foundation of the felicity of your people. From this principle we will never depart, nothing being more certain, than that these kingdoms can never be happy but in the preservation of your sacred person, and the security of the protestant succession in your royal family, which we are determined always to defend and maintain.

His Majesty's Answer, November 17, 1749.

My Lords,

THE assurances you give me, in this dutiful and affectionate address, are such as deserve my most hearty thanks. The sentiments which you express, concerning the present situation of affairs, are extremely agreeable to me, and cannot fail to give great satisfaction both at home and abroad.

Address by the House of Commons, November 17, 1749.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons of Great Britain, in Parliament assembled, return your Majesty our sincere and hearty thanks for your most gracious speech from the throne.

We beg leave to congratulate your Majesty on the complete re-establishment of a general peace, whereby the blessings of

tranquillity are restored to your people; and to express our satisfaction at the good disposition which your Majesty has found in all your allies, as well as in the contracting powers in the definitive treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle, to continue and preserve so desirable a situation, from whence we have not only the comfortable prospect of future ease, but may likewise promise ourselves, through the flourishing condition of our commerce, and natural rise of public credit, a gradual increase of our national strength.

With a zeal and gratitude indispensably due to the many instances of your Majesty's paternal affection for your people, we acknowledge your great wisdom in recommending to us the reduction of the national debt as an object worthy of our most serious attention; and we assure your Majesty we will apply ourselves with all possible diligence, to find out the properest means to accomplish so great and necessary a work with the strictest regard to public faith and private property.

This House, earnestly desirous effectually to promote the mutual and inseparable interest of your Majesty and your people, will grant such supplies to your Majesty as shall be found necessary for the security and welfare of the nation, which cannot be better provided for than by maintaining the fleet in such a condition as may enable your Majesty to preserve that weight and influence which properly belong to the crown of Great Britain: and we will do all that in us lies to encourage a general spirit of industry, and advance our trade and navigation, the two great sources of the wealth and strength of this kingdom.

Your faithful Commons assure your Majesty, they are fully sensible that their present and future prosperity and happiness depend, under God, upon the stability of your Majesty's government, and the succession established in your royal family.

His Majesty's Answer, November 20, 1749.

Gentlemen, ✱

I THANK you most heartily for this very kind and dutiful address.

You may be assured of all possible returns of affection from me. I have nothing so much at heart as to see my people flourishing and happy under my government.

His

His Majesty's most gracious Speech, April 12, 1750.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I CANNOT put an end to this session of Parliament without returning you my hearty thanks for the zeal and dispatch with which you have gone through the public business. Nothing could have afforded me more satisfaction than the attention you have given to those essential points of our national interest which I earnestly recommended to you at the opening of the session. And it is with the greatest pleasure I have now given my assent to those laws which have been the result of your prudent deliberations, for advancing the public credit; for promoting the commerce and manufactures of this kingdom; and for encouraging the industry of my good subjects.

There has been so little alteration in the state of affairs abroad since your meeting, that I have scarce any thing to add upon that head. My resolution to adhere strictly to the engagements I have entered into, and to do every thing in my power to preserve the peace which has been so happily established, continues the same; and I have received the fullest assurances from all my allies, of their disposition to promote this great end. My sincere endeavours shall be exerted to cultivate and improve this good disposition, that my own kingdoms, as well as the rest of Europe, may long enjoy the happy fruits of the present tranquillity.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I thank you in a particular manner for the supplies you have so readily granted me; and for the public spirit you have shewn in laying hold of the very first opportunity to reduce the interest of the national debt without the least infringement of parliamentary faith. The success which has already attended this wise measure, is a proof of the present credit of this kingdom; and has laid a sure foundation for the continuance of it, and cannot fail to add strength and reputation to my government, both at home and abroad.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I make no doubt but you will carry into your respective countries the same good principles and affections which I have experienced from you here. Let it be your business to promote peace and harmony, and to support and propagate religion, good manners, and good order amongst my people, whose true and lasting happiness shall be my constant care.

Then the Lord Chancellor, by his Majesty's command, said,

My Lords and Gentlemen,

IT is his Majesty's royal will and pleasure, that this Parliament be prorogued until Thursday, the fourteenth day of June next, to be then here held: and this Parliament is accordingly prorogued to Thursday, the fourteenth day of June next.

His Majesty's most gracious Speech, January 17, 1751.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I HAVE postponed your meeting to this time, that I might consult your private convenience, as far as was consistent with the occasions of the public. The continuance of the present tranquillity has afforded me an opportunity for the former, and rendered the latter less pressing. Since the last session, my care and attention have been constantly employed in improving this situation: and I have the satisfaction to acquaint you, that I have concluded a treaty with my good brother the King of Spain, whereby such particular differences, as from the nature of them could not be settled in a general treaty, have been amicably adjusted without the intervention of any other party; and the commerce of my subjects with that country re-established upon the most advantageous and sure foundations.

In the progress of this work I have received such assurances of the sincere disposition of the Catholic King, to cement and maintain the most perfect union with me, as leaves no room to doubt of its good effects being felt in all parts; and there is the greatest reason to hope, that the ancient friendship and good correspondence between the two nations, which had been long unfortunately interrupted, will, from mutual interest and inclination, be now effectually restored.

I have also, in conjunction with the Empress Queen and the States General, concluded a treaty with the Elector of Bavaria; and am taking such further measures as may best tend to strengthen and secure the tranquillity of the empire, support its system, and timely prevent such events as have been found by experience to endanger the common cause, involved Europe in the calamities of war, and occasioned the loss of much blood and treasure to my own kingdoms.

Both these treaties shall be laid before you; and as I have told you the views with which I have entered into them, I must do justice to all the other contracting powers in the definitive treaty
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of Aix-la-Chapelle, by acquainting you that I have received from them the most full and clear declarations of their resolution to preserve the general peace.

That nothing might be wanting for these salutary purposes, I have taken care to strengthen and consolidate the ties of union and friendship between me and my allies, the better to secure our mutual interests, maintain the peace already subsisting, and to prevent the occasion of any future rupture: and that there might remain no doubt of the uprightness and security of my intentions, I have made the proper communication of the measures I have taken, and the principles on which they have been founded.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I have ordered estimates to be laid before you for the service of the current year; I desire only such supplies as shall be necessary for your own security, and making good such engagements as have been contracted, and are now communicated to you. The successful and happy progress which has been made in the reduction of the interest of the national debt does great honour to this Parliament, and adds much to our reputation in foreign countries. So little of this great work remains unfinished, that I make no doubt of your completing it this session in the most just and equitable manner.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I have nothing further to recommend to you in particular. Let me exhort you in general to make the best use of the present tranquillity, for improving the trade and commerce of my kingdoms, for enforcing the execution of the laws, and for suppressing those outrages and violences which are inconsistent with all good order and government, and endanger the lives and properties of my subjects, whose happiness and flourishing condition I have entirely at heart.

Address by the House of Lords, January 18, 1751.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Lords spiritual and temporal, in Parliament assembled, return your Majesty our humble thanks for your most gracious speech from the throne.

Your Majesty's paternal care, always watchful for the prosperity of your kingdoms, and mixed with a generous extensive concern for the common welfare of Europe, has appeared in

nothing more than in your unwearied endeavours to improve the present state of tranquillity. This must be evident to all the world, from the series of important transactions which your Majesty has been pleased to lay before us ; and it is with the utmost thankfulness we acknowledge your goodness in communicating to us that a treaty has been so successfully concluded between your Majesty and the King of Spain. As the commerce of these kingdoms is the source of the wealth of your subjects, and of the strength and splendour of your crown, so your Majesty's attention to re-establish our trade with that country on the most advantageous conditions, is a fresh instance of your uninterrupted vigilance for the most essential concerns of your people. Mutual interest and mutual inclination are the best foundations of a lasting amity and good correspondence ; which, from the concurrence of such motives, we firmly hope will be happily restored between the two nations in all parts ; and that those causes which have long interrupted them, are now effectually removed.

Your royal wisdom has not been confined to the adjusting of present differences and the remedying of inconveniences actually existing : it is with pleasure we observe that your foresight is exerting itself to secure us, as far as can be done by human prudence, against such events as have formerly involved Europe in the calamities of war. In this view we look upon the treaty which your Majesty has lately concluded with the Elector of Bavaria, and the further measures which you are graciously pleased to inform us are carrying on for securing the tranquillity and supporting the system of the empire. Nothing can tend more to effectuate these measures than the strengthening and consolidating the ties of union and friendship between your Majesty and your allies, which cannot fail at the same time to be attended with the best consequences for promoting our mutual interests, preserving the general repose, and preventing the occasion of any future rupture.

We are truly sensible of your Majesty's goodness in laying before us these your salutary views and intentions. In the prosecution of them the weight and influence of the crown of Great Britain are very visible ; and we do with the greatest cheerfulness assure your Majesty of our steady and zealous support in all such measures as may best answer these desirable ends.

Our unshaken duty and affection to your sacred person, and our love of our country, are the surest pledges of our conduct. It shall be our first care to demonstrate our inviolable adherence to these principles, nor shall any thing be wanting on our part to advance the trade and flourishing condition of these kingdoms,

doms, to enforce the observance of the laws and of good order amongst your people, and to maintain the dignity and strength of your Majesty's crown and government, both at home and abroad.

His Majesty's Answer, January 18, 1751.

My Lords,

I RETURN you my hearty thanks for this dutiful and affectionate address. The satisfaction you have so unanimously expressed in the treaties I have lately concluded, and the measures which I am pursuing, gives me the greatest pleasure. I entirely rely on your zeal and support in bringing them to perfection, for the welfare of my own kingdoms, and the general tranquillity of Europe.

Address by the Commons, January 18, 1751.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons of Great Britain, in Parliament assembled, return your Majesty our sincere and hearty thanks for your most gracious speech from the throne.

We beg leave to congratulate your Majesty on your safe and happy return to these kingdoms ; and to express the warmest acknowledgments of our gratitude for your Majesty's unwearied endeavours to establish the present tranquillity upon the surest foundations.

We congratulate your Majesty on the conclusion of a treaty with the King of Spain, by which the particular differences that from the nature of them could not be settled in a general treaty, are now amicably adjusted, and we feel the most real satisfaction at the reason there is to hope, from the assurances which your Majesty has received of the sincere disposition of the Catholic King to cement and maintain the most perfect union with your Majesty, that the ancient friendship will be restored, and an uninterrupted good correspondence subsist between the two nations, to their mutual advantage and happiness.

We respectfully acknowledge your Majesty's great wisdom and foresight, in taking the best measures timely to prevent such events as might hereafter involve Europe in the calamities of war ; and we have the best-grounded hopes, from the full and clear declaration of all the contracting powers in the definitive treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle, as well as from your Majesty's

care and attention to strengthen the ties of union and friendship between your Majesty and your allies, that we shall long enjoy the blessings of a general peace.

We assure your Majesty that we cheerfully raise such supplies as shall be found necessary for the security of your Majesty's government, and to make good the engagements entered into by your Majesty for the public benefit, and according to your gracious intention, communicated to this House.

It is with the greatest satisfaction that we receive your Majesty's gracious approbation of the progress already made towards reducing the interest of the national debt; and we assure your Majesty, that we will use our immediate endeavours to finish that great work with justice and equity.

Your faithful Commons beg leave to express their sense of the happiness they enjoy under your Majesty's government; and to assure your Majesty that they are determined to give all possible attention to whatever may promote the trade and commerce of these kingdoms; and that they will endeavour to render the laws more effectual by enforcing their execution, thereby to discourage and suppress the outrages and enormities committed in defiance of them.

His Majesty's Answer, January 22, 1751.

Gentlemen,

I THANK you most heartily for this affectionate address: you may depend upon my constant endeavours to preserve the general tranquillity in Europe; and to promote the particular interests and happiness of my people.

His Majesty's Message to the House of Commons, April 26, 1751.

GEORGE REX.

HIS Majesty having it entirely at heart to secure the future welfare and happiness of his people, has maturely considered that nothing can conduce so much (under the protection of the Divine Providence) to the preservation of the protestant succession in his royal family, and the support of the religion, laws, and liberties of these kingdoms, (which have been always most dear to him,) as the making proper provisions for the care and tuition of the person of his successor, and for the regular administration of the government, in case such successor should be of tender years; by means whereof their safety and princely education may be secured, the public peace and good order maintained, and the strength and glory of the crown
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of Great Britain suffer no diminution. For these reasons, his Majesty, out of his paternal affection and tenderness for his royal family and for all his faithful subjects, earnestly recommends it to both Houses of Parliament, to take this weighty affair into their most serious deliberation ; and proposes to their consideration, that when the imperial crown of these realms shall descend to any of the issue of his son, the late Prince of Wales, being under the age of eighteen years, the Princess Dowager of Wales, their mother, should be guardian of the person of such successor, and regent of these kingdoms, until they shall attain such age ; with such powers and limitations as shall appear necessary and expedient for these important purposes.

Joint Address by both Houses to the King, April 26, 1751.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Lords spiritual and temporal, and Commons, in Parliament assembled, approach your royal throne with hearts filled at the same time with the deepest sense of gratitude to your Majesty, and with the most serious and anxious concern for the future welfare of our country.

To return your Majesty our thanks for your most gracious message, falls infinitely short of those sentiments with which the subject of it inspires us. It excites in us the most sensible feeling of all those blessings which we have enjoyed during your most auspicious and glorious reign ; of the mildness and benignity of your government, and of that constant protection which your Majesty has always extended to our religion, laws, and liberties, which you have demonstrated by your conduct, as well as declared by your royal words, to be most dear to you. Happy would it be for all your faithful subjects, if Heaven, in mercy to these kingdoms, would graciously permit a reign so distinguished with every mark of goodness that can endear a British monarch to his people, to be prolonged beyond the ordinary date. To look forward to its period anticipates a grief which no words can express. Your Majesty's greatness of mind, shewn in your message, has called upon us, and set us the example, to enter into such considerations as the high importance of the occasion requires.

Not content with being the great instrument of our happiness during your own time, your Majesty has pointed out to us a generous concern to provide for the continuance of that happiness, (as far as human foresight can do,) after God shall have deprived us of the inestimable blessing of your immediate care.

In

In return for this paternal goodness, permit us to assure your Majesty that we will lose no time in taking into our consideration the weighty affair laid before us in your message.

We are truly sensible of the high and eminent qualities of her royal highness the Princess Dowager of Wales; and we look upon what your Majesty has been graciously pleased to propose to our consideration, as the result of your wisdom and tender concern for your royal family, and the interest of these kingdoms; and we shall have the most dutiful regard to what your Majesty has been pleased so wisely to recommend.

In our deliberations on this important subject, we shall think it our duty as well as our essential interest, to have the strictest and most zealous attention to the preservation of the protestant succession, as settled by law in your royal family, the numerous hopeful branches whereof, formed by your instruction and led by your example, we look upon as so many pledges of the security of our religious and civil rights to future generations.

May it please the Divine Providence to grant your Majesty such confirmed health and length of days, as may render those provisions which your wisdom has suggested to us on this occasion, unnecessary in the event; that we may very long enjoy the benefits of your gracious government, and your Majesty the dutiful and affectionate returns of a most obliged, loyal, and grateful people.

His Majesty's Answer, April 29, 1751.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I RETURN you my hearty thanks for this very dutiful and affectionate address. The zeal you express for me and my family, and the sense you shew of my care and concern for the interest of my people, is very agreeable to me.

His Majesty's most gracious Speech, June 25, 1751.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

THE advanced season of the year makes it necessary for me to put an end to this session of Parliament; and I do it with the greater satisfaction, as your diligent application to the public business has brought it to so happy a conclusion. On this occasion I cannot but return you my hearty thanks for the many proofs you have given me of your zeal and affection for me and my government; and the care and attention which you have exerted for the interests of my people.

As Europe now enjoys a happy tranquillity, very little alteration has been made in the state of foreign affairs since your meeting.

meeting. My resolution to preserve the general peace is the same ; and I have the greatest reason to rely on the like good disposition in the powers in alliance with me, not only being continued, but confirmed and improved.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

The readiness with which you have granted me the supplies for the service of the current year demands my particular acknowledgments ; and the prudence and firmness you have shewn in completing the reduction of the interest of the national debt, is as agreeable to me as that measure is essential to the strength and welfare of my kingdom.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I have nothing to desire of you but effectually to consult your own true interest and happiness. Let it be your care to maintain in your several countries the public peace and good order, to encourage and promote a just reverence for government and law, and not to suffer those good laws which are enacted here, to lose their effect for want of a due execution.

Then the Lord Chancellor, by his Majesty's command, said,

My Lords and Gentlemen,

IT is his Majesty's royal will and pleasure, that this Parliament be prorogued to Thursday, the thirteenth day of August next, to be then here held : and this Parliament is accordingly prorogued to Tuesday, the thirteenth day of August next.

His Majesty's most gracious Speech, November 14, 1751.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

IT is with great satisfaction that I meet you in Parliament at this time, when the continuance of the public tranquillity and the flourishing condition of my kingdoms leave us nothing to desire, but to secure and improve our present situation. To this end all my views and measures have been directed, both at home and abroad ; and in this state of things, nothing can give me more real pleasure, than to observe those solid advantages which my good subjects reap from it in their trade and manufactures ; some branches whereof have also received considerable benefit from the wise provisions which have been made by this Parliament,

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The treaty lately entered into with the Elector of Bavaria was laid before you in your last session, and I then acquainted you that I was taking such further measures as might tend to secure the tranquillity of the empire, support its system, and timely prevent such events as had been found by experience to endanger the common cause. I have since, for the same purposes, in conjunction with the States General of the United Provinces, found it necessary to conclude a treaty with the King of Poland, Elector of Saxony, which shall be communicated to you.

The unfortunate event of the Prince of Orange's death has made no alteration in the state of affairs in Holland, and by the prudent and early measures taken there, the quiet of that country has been preserved, and their government carried on upon the foundation of the settlement which had with so much foresight been previously established by laws of the republic. I have received the strongest assurances from the States General of their firm resolution to maintain that strict union and friendship which so happily subsist between me and those ancient and natural allies of my crown.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons, *

I have ordered estimates of the expenses of the ensuing year to be prepared and laid before you ; and have no other supplies to ask of you but such as are requisite for those services, and for making good such necessary engagements as you are made acquainted with. The success which has attended your firmness in reducing the interest of the national debt, will, I am confident, give you the greatest satisfaction.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

The experience I have had of your dutiful and steady conduct makes it wholly unnecessary for me to press upon you unanimity and dispatch in your deliberations. But I cannot conclude without recommending it to you in the most earnest manner, to consider seriously of some effectual provisions to suppress those audacious crimes of robbery and violence which are now become so frequent, especially about this great capital, and which have proceeded in a great measure from that profligate spirit of irreligion, idleness, gaming, and extravagance, which has of late extended itself, in an uncommon degree, to the dishonour of the nation, and to the great offence and prejudice of the sober and industrious part of my people.

Address to his Majesty by the House of Lords, November 15, 1751.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Lords spiritual and temporal, in Parliament assembled, approach your throne with hearts full of that zeal and affection for your person and government, which become the most faithful subjects to the best of Kings.

We beg leave, in the first place, to return your Majesty our humble thanks for your most gracious speech from the throne, in which you have with so much goodness expressed your care of our welfare, and your delight in our happiness. Justice as well as gratitude calls upon us to acknowledge the inestimable blessings we enjoy under your Majesty's auspicious government; and that the continuance of the public tranquillity, the prosperous situation of your kingdoms, the flourishing condition of our commerce, and the opportunity which these circumstances have afforded for reducing the burden of the national interest, are, under the Divine protection, owing to the measures which your Majesty has pursued, both at home and abroad, for the true interest of your people.

We are fully sensible that those measures have not been restrained merely to present objects, but have been prudently extended to guard against future evils and dangers. In this light we consider the treaty lately concluded by your Majesty, with the King of Poland, Elector of Saxony; the good effects of which will, we hope, be fully answerable to your great and salutary views.

The death of the Prince of Orange, a prince so nearly allied to your Majesty, and of such importance to the common cause, has given us great concern; but it is a real satisfaction to us, that this unfortunate event has been attended with no ill consequence to the state of affairs in Holland, whose security and welfare we consider as intimately connected with our own. The support of that government, upon the settlement which had been before happily established, and the cordial assurances which your Majesty has received from the States General, gives us the greatest pleasure, and confirms us in that resolution which we have long adhered to, of maintaining and cultivating the strictest union and friendship with that protestant republic.

We acknowledge with all thankfulness the paternal regard which your Majesty has shewn for your people, in publicly declaring your just resentment against those audacious crimes of robbery and violence, which, in defiance of the laws, are now grown to such an excess, particularly in this part of the kingdom.

dom. We look upon them as a real nuisance and dishonour to the nation ; and the increase of irreligion, idleness, gaming, and all kinds of licentiousness, has been long lamented by all good men, as the unhappy source of this and many other mischiefs. All considerations, both religious and political, call upon us to put a stop to these growing evils ; and nothing shall be wanting, on our part, to enforce and strengthen the laws for punishing and suppressing all such wicked practices, and to prevent and remedy the pernicious causes of them. Permit us, at the same time, to give your Majesty the strongest assurances, that we are zealously determined, in all our deliberations, to contribute every thing in our power to the security and quiet of your Majesty's government, the happiness of your people, and the glory of your reign.

His Majesty's Answer, Nov. 15, 1751.

My Lords,

I THANK you very kindly for this dutiful and affectionate address. The satisfaction you shew in the measures I have taken both at home and abroad, for the preservation of the public peace, and for the advancement of the interests of my people, is very agreeable to me, and cannot fail of having a good effect for promoting those great and salutary views.

Address by the House of Commons, Nov. 15, 1751.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons of Great Britain, in Parliament assembled, humbly beg leave to return your Majesty our most hearty thanks for your Majesty's most gracious speech from the throne.

Permit us, Sir, with hearts full of gratitude, to express our lively and due sense of the happiness we enjoy under your Majesty's wise and just government, and our well-grounded confidence that your Majesty's views are and ever will be directed to no other end than to secure and improve the present flourishing condition of your kingdoms. The regard your Majesty is pleased to testify for the advancement of our trade and manufactures, as it is a signal instance of your Majesty's constant and universal attention to the welfare of your subjects, demands our sincerest acknowledgments. And it cannot but be matter of the highest satisfaction to us, that the provisions made for that purpose by this
Parliament,

Parliament, in pursuance of your Majesty's most gracious recommendation, have produced the desired effect.

We unfeignedly assure your Majesty that we will readily concur in all such measures as tend to secure the inestimable blessings of peace to us, by establishing more firmly the general tranquillity in Europe.

Affected with the deepest concern, we condole with your Majesty on the unfortunate event of the death of the Prince of Orange; but at the same time beg leave to express the great consolation we feel from the strong assurances given to your Majesty on this occasion by the States General of the United Provinces, which leave us no room to doubt of the continuance of that strict union and friendship so essential to the interest of both countries.

Your faithful Commons with the utmost cheerfulness promise to grant to your Majesty such supplies as may enable your Majesty to fulfil the engagements, and answer the several services which shall be found necessary for the public good.

We cannot sufficiently acknowledge your Majesty's wisdom and goodness in recommending to our consideration the mischiefs and dishonour which arise to this nation from the audacious crimes of robbery and violence so notorious of late to all the world; and we humbly assure your Majesty that we will seriously proceed in reviving and enforcing such laws as may contribute to suppress those enormities, by discouraging irreligion, idleness, gaming, and immorality, by promoting industry, and establishing good order amongst your Majesty's subjects.

His Majesty's Answer, November 18, 1751.

Gentlemen,

I THANK you most heartily for this very affectionate address.

Nothing can give me so great pleasure as to see my people happy. It shall be my constant care, as far in me lies, to make them so.

His Majesty's most gracious Speech, March 26, 1752.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I CANNOT put an end to this session of Parliament without returning you my hearty thanks for the great application and dispatch with which you have gone through the public business. You have not only shewn your just satisfaction in the measures

I have pursued in foreign affairs, but have also given me your support in carrying them on with that zeal and cheerfulness which I had reason to expect from so dutiful and affectionate a Parliament, who are entirely convinced that those measures are calculated to maintain their own essential interests, and to render the present general peace durable and lasting.

The many laws now passed will, I hope, attain the good ends intended by them. Nothing that depends upon me shall be wanting to make them effectual ; and particularly to execute in a right manner the provisions made for civilizing and reducing into order, such parts of the united kingdom where the want of knowledge, improvement, and due obedience to the laws had remarkably furnished opportunities to seduce the people from their loyalty.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

My particular thanks are due to you for the supplies you have so readily granted me. Your care to support the reduction of the national interest, and to put great part of the debt into a method more convenient for the creditors as well as for the public, is a fresh instance of your attention to that important concern.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

Nothing in this world can give me so much pleasure as to see you a flourishing and happy people. Exert yourselves in your several stations to do your parts, and you may depend on my unwearyed endeavours to secure this great blessing to ourselves, and transmit it to posterity.

Then the Lord Chancellor, by his Majesty's command, said,

My Lords and Gentlemen,

IT is his Majesty's royal will and pleasure, that this Parliament be prorogued to Thursday, the fourth day of June next, to be then here held : and this Parliament is accordingly prorogued to Thursday, the fourth day of June next.

His Majesty's most gracious Speech, Jan. 11, 1753.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I HAVE received so many proofs of the good affections and zeal of my people for my person and government, that every opportunity of meeting them in Parliament gives me a new satisfaction.

satisfaction. The maintenance of the general peace, already happily established, is so desirable for all Europe that all my views and negotiations have been entirely calculated and directed to preserve it, and secure its duration. I am still proceeding, and shall continue to act upon the same principle, nothing being capable of giving me so much comfort as that my good subjects may long enjoy the happy fruits of the present tranquillity. I have the satisfaction to be assured of a good disposition in all the powers in alliance with me to adhere to the same salutary object; and the measures which have been taken in different parts of Europe for that purpose, cannot fail to give additional strength and solidity to the provisions made by the treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

The estimates for the current year shall be laid before you by my order. I have no supplies to ask of you, but what shall be necessary for the ordinary services, and such as have been already communicated to you, and for the security of the nation and the support of its trade and commerce, on which the essential interests of this kingdom depend. I must at the same time earnestly recommend the continuance of your attention to the reduction of the national debt, the improvement of the public revenue, and augmenting the sinking fund.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I hope you will find that the laws made last session of Parliament for suppressing those crimes and disorders which have been so justly complained of, have had a good effect. Whatsoever is further necessary to perfect so laudable a work deserves your serious consideration; that whilst we enjoy peace abroad, we may maintain good order and regularity at home. My hearty concurrence and endeavours shall never be wanting in any thing that may promote your welfare and prosperity.

Address to his Majesty by the House of Lords, Jan. 12, 1753.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Lords spiritual and temporal, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to return your Majesty our humble thanks for your most gracious speech from the throne.

Your Majesty's paternal care of your people, in establishing the peace, can receive no addition but from your constant and vigilant endeavours to preserve to them the happy fruits of it.

Whilst we gratefully remember the one, and feel the good effects of the other, we do, with the justest confidence, rely on your Majesty's experienced wisdom and goodness, in directing all your views and negotiations to that desirable end.

It gives us great satisfaction to be informed from the throne of the good disposition of all the powers in alliance with your Majesty to maintain the present tranquillity. Convinced that this is the real interest of the other nations of Europe, as well as our own, we rejoice in every event that may give strength and solidity to the provisions made by the general definitive treaty. We are deeply sensible that nothing can so much contribute to these purposes, as the influence of your Majesty and the crown of Great Britain: and we beg leave to assure you of our resolution and earnestness to strengthen your Majesty's hands, and so far as depends upon us, to add weight to your measures to render the peace durable, for the common good of Europe, the lasting benefit of your own kingdoms, and the security of our commerce and navigation; the support and advancement whereof we consider as the great source and solid basis of our riches and strength.

Your Majesty's concern for our domestic happiness appears in nothing more than in so graciously recommending to your Parliament the salutary work of maintaining good order and regularity amongst the people. We look upon it as essential to the national happiness; and as the most likely means not only to entitle us to your Majesty's gracious approbation, but to draw down upon us the protection of the Divine Providence.

To repeat only our solemn assurances of unfeigned gratitude for the inestimable blessings we enjoy under your auspicious government, would not sufficiently express the warmth of those sentiments which we feel in our hearts. Our loyalty, duty, and affection to your sacred person, are raised to the greatest height: and our zeal for the ease, prosperity, and true glory of your reign, and for perpetuating the succession to this crown, which you wear with so much lustre, in a race of princes descended from yourself, is incapable of any addition.

His Majesty's Answer, January 12, 1753.

My Lords,

I RETURN you my thanks for this very loyal and dutiful address. Nothing can give me greater satisfaction than these solemn assurances of the continuance of your zeal and affection for my person, family, and government. I firmly
 1 rely

rely on your support, and you may depend on my hearty concern for your true interests.

Address to his Majesty by the House of Commons, Jan. 12, 1753.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons of Great Britain, in Parliament assembled, humbly beg leave to return your Majesty our hearty thanks for your most gracious speech from the throne; and to congratulate your Majesty upon your safe and happy arrival in this kingdom.

Permit us, Sir, to express our sincere joy, that the dutiful conduct of your Majesty's faithful Commons has been rewarded with your royal approbation, and to assure your Majesty of the continuance of that zeal and affection for your person and government, which your Majesty's constant attention to the happiness of your people so justly demands.

We must ever acknowledge your Majesty's wisdom as well as goodness, in pursuing such measures as may best contribute to maintain and render permanent the general tranquillity in Europe: and suffer us, Sir, at the same time to declare our satisfaction at the assurances which your Majesty has received from your allies, of their good disposition to adhere to the same salutary object.

Your faithful Commons, with the truest zeal and duty, promise your Majesty to raise with cheerfulness, unanimity, and dispatch, such supplies as shall be found necessary for the security of the nation, and the support of its trade and commerce, so essential to the well-being of this country.

We cannot sufficiently testify our grateful sense of your Majesty's provident concern for the welfare of this nation, in recommending again to our attention the lessening of the national debt; and do assure your Majesty, that we will take into our serious consideration the best means to improve the public revenue, whereby the heavy load of our debts may be put in a method of being gradually reduced, and the national credit, already in a flourishing condition, be firmly established.

We further beg leave to assure your Majesty, that whilst we reflect with gratitude upon the blessings of peace abroad, and enjoy the daily fruits of the continuance of it, we will not be wanting in our endeavours to preserve good order and regularity at home; happy in this conviction, that from the whole tenor of your Majesty's auspicious reign, we are sure of your Ma-

Majesty's hearty concurrence in every measure which may tend to promote the true interests and prosperity of your people.

His Majesty's Answer, January 15, 1753.

Gentlemen,

I THANK you most heartily for this very affectionate address. Your zeal for the good of the public, and for my government, cannot but afford me the highest satisfaction. My chief concern will always be the happiness of my people.

His Majesty's most gracious Speech, June 7, 1753.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

THE season of the year is so far advanced, and the business before you so entirely finished, that it is necessary to put an end to this session of Parliament: the zeal which you have shewn for my person and government in all your proceedings, calls for my sincere thanks; and the care and assiduity you have exerted in making such provisions as may advance the commerce of my subjects, supply and extend their manufactures, and put a stop to some disorders that required reformation, are no less agreeable to me, than they are proofs of your prudence in laying hold of this time of tranquillity to make domestic improvements.

The state of foreign affairs has received no material alteration since your meeting; you may depend on my steadily pursuing the same principles and ends which I then declared to you, to preserve the peace, to consult the real prosperity of my people, and at the same time to assert and maintain the honour and just rights of my crown and kingdoms, are the fixed objects of all my measures.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

In granting the supplies for the current year, you have equally shewn your concern for the public service, and your regard to the ease of your fellow-subjects. I thank you for both, as well as for providing with so much foresight for the future augmentation of the sinking fund.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I have nothing to desire of you but what I am persuaded you wish for yourselves. Do your utmost endeavours in your several

veral countries to promote the true interest and happiness of my people; to propagate industry, and to preserve good order and regularity amongst them: make them sensible of the blessings they enjoy, and by these means the quiet and security of my government will be best established.

And afterwards the Lord Chancellor, by his Majesty's command, said,

My Lords and Gentlemen,

IT is his Majesty's royal will and pleasure, that this Parliament be prorogued to Tuesday, the fourteenth day of August next, to be then here held: and this Parliament is accordingly prorogued to Tuesday, the fourteenth day of August next.

His Majesty's most gracious Speech, November 15, 1753.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I HAVE called you together as early as your attendance upon your private affairs would admit; and I am confident that you are all met with the best dispositions, to give such application and dispatch to the business of this session, as may be most conducive to the public utility. The events of this year have not made it necessary for me to offer any thing in particular to your consideration relating to foreign affairs. The continuance of the public tranquillity, and the general state of Europe, remain upon the same foot as when we last parted; and you may be assured of my steadiness in pursuing the most effectual measures to preserve to my people the blessings of peace.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I have nothing to ask of you, but the necessary supplies for the ordinary services of the ensuing year, and such as have already been under your consideration. I have ordered estimates to be laid before you; and from the experience I have had of your constant regard for my honour, and the security as well as ease of your fellow-subjects, I entertain no doubt of your making the proper provisions for these purposes.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I am sorry to be obliged again to mention to you a subject, which reflects dishonour upon the nation, as well as creates great danger and mischief to my good subjects. It is with the utmost

utmost regret I observe, that the horrid crimes of robbery and murder are of late rather increased than diminished. I am sensible that works of reformation are not to be effected at once; but every body should contribute their best endeavours: and let me earnestly recommend it to you, to continue your serious attention to this important object. Whatsoever shall be found expedient, either in this or any other respect, for the welfare and happiness of my people, shall meet with my hearty concurrence and support.

Address by the House of Lords to his Majesty, Nov. 16, 1753.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Lords spiritual and temporal, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to return your Majesty our humble thanks for your most gracious speech from the throne.

Every opportunity of approaching your sacred person furnishes us with new matter for acknowledging your Majesty's constant and unwearied attention to the welfare of your kingdoms; which is in no instance more conspicuous, than in your vigilance to preserve to them the blessings of peace. Our just confidence in your Majesty's pursuing the most effectual measures for this purpose, is equal to those grateful sentiments with which our hearts are filled on this occasion. The honour and security of the nation both at home and abroad, the maintenance of our religion and liberty, the protection and extension of our commerce, and every branch of the national happiness, are the objects of your royal care, wisely and steadily exerted for the common good of your people.

It gives us the utmost concern, that it should be necessary for your Majesty again to take notice of the increase of those horrid crimes of robbery and murder, which are arrived at so great a height. We are duly sensible that your Majesty's justice is never wanting to protect the innocent and punish the guilty; and it shall be our constant endeavour to enforce, and add vigour to the laws for bringing such audacious and obstinate offenders to punishment. Your Majesty, like a true father to your people, has often graciously recommended to us the salutary work of reformation; which, though it proceeds too slowly, we will not fail to promote to the utmost of our power.

Nothing shall be wanting on our part to answer your Majesty's just expectations, that the public utility shall be our rule in carrying on the business of this session. And we humbly entreat

entreat your Majesty to accept our strongest assurances, ~~that as~~ the continuance of your precious life is the subject of our ardent wishes and prayers; so the support of your government, the glory of your auspicious reign, and the preservation of the protestant succession in your royal family, are and shall be the invariable principles and aim of our conduct.

His Majesty's Answer, November 16, 1753.

My Lords,

NOTHING can be more agreeable to me than this very dutiful and affectionate address. I thank you for it: and as my great aim is your lasting prosperity, be assured that the confidence you repose in me shall be made use of for the honour and true interest of the nation.

Address by the House of Commons to his Majesty, Nov. 16, 1753.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons of Great Britain, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to return your Majesty our humble thanks for your most gracious speech from the throne.

And we assure your Majesty, that we will not fail on our parts to give such application and dispatch to the business of this session as may be most conducive to the public utility.

The happy continuance of the general tranquillity calls upon us to express our gratitude to your Majesty for your constant attention to an object so essential to the interest of your people; and we have the utmost confidence in your Majesty's wisdom and steadiness, that you will pursue the most effectual measures for preserving to this nation the inestimable blessings of peace.

We beg leave to assure your Majesty, that we will cheerfully raise such supplies as shall be found necessary for the services of the ensuing year.

Nothing can be more pleasing to your faithful Commons, than to receive fresh marks of your Majesty's gracious approbation of our past zeal and regard for your honour, as well as for the security and ease of our fellow-subjects.

We lament, with the deepest concern, that the methods hitherto attempted to repress and prevent the horrid crimes of robbery and murder, so grievous as well as dishonourable to this nation, have proved ineffectual; but we assure your Majesty, that

that however difficult the task may be to reform or even restrain the desperate and abandoned, we will nevertheless persevere in our serious endeavours to provide, if it be possible, a more adequate remedy against such enormities; being fully persuaded, from an uninterrupted experience of your Majesty's goodness, that we shall be assisted by your Majesty's concurrence and support in every measure that shall be found expedient in this, or any other respect, for the welfare and happiness of your people.

His Majesty's Answer, November 19, 1753.

Gentlemen,

I THANK you for this dutiful and affectionate address.

You may firmly rely on my best endeavours to promote, on all occasions, the true interests and happiness of my people.

His Majesty's most gracious Speech, April 6, 1754.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

NOTHING could have given me greater satisfaction at this time than the unanimity and dispatch with which you have gone through the business of this session. Though no particular point of extraordinary moment hath offered itself to your consideration, yet you have shewn the most attentive regard to every branch of the public service. As to foreign affairs I shall say nothing at present, except that it is my fixed resolution to do every thing in my power to maintain the general tranquillity, and to adhere to such measures for that purpose, as I have hitherto pursued in conjunction with the powers in alliance with me.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I return you my hearty thanks for the supplies which you have so cheerfully granted; and which are the more acceptable to me, as they have brought no new burden upon my good subjects.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

The time draws near when the present Parliament must determine by law; and it is my intention very speedily to call a new one: but it would be unjust to this, not to give it a public testimony of my approbation. The many eminent proofs which you have given of your duty and affection to my person and government, of your zeal for this excellent constitution, and

and for the security of the present establishment, can never be forgotten by me. By your vigorous assistance, under the protection of the Divine Providence, I was enabled to put an end to an expensive though necessary war, by an honourable peace; which you have greatly contributed to preserve by readily and uniformly supporting my measures. You have gone further; and, whilst the difficulties arising from the war were scarce over, seized the first opportunity to perfect one of the greatest works of peace, by concurring in the most proper means for a gradual decrease of the national debt, and at the same time raising the public credit. You have also, by several new laws, laid a foundation to strengthen and advance the trade and commerce of my kingdoms. Such a series of wise and steady conduct cannot fail to recommend you to the good-will and esteem of your fellow-subjects, as well as mine. For my own part, I securely rely upon the loyalty and good affections of my people, and have no other aim but their lasting happiness.

Then the Lord Chancellor, by his Majesty's command, said,

My Lords and Gentlemen,

IT is his Majesty's royal will and pleasure, that this Parliament be prorogued to Thursday, the twenty-fifth day of this instant April, to be then here held: and this Parliament is accordingly prorogued to Thursday, the twenty-fifth day of this instant April.

Speech by the Speaker of the House of Commons, June 1, 1754.

My Lords,

HIS Majesty's faithful Commons, in Parliament assembled, have, in pursuance of his royal direction, and according to their ancient right, proceeded to the election of one of their members to be their Speaker in this Parliament; and their choice has again fallen upon me for this great trust.

From what has passed in several former Parliaments with regard to myself, I did not presume to dispute the commands of the Commons upon this occasion: it is for the same reasons, and from the like principle of duty, I forbear to urge any thing here against their present resolution, but resign myself entirely to his Majesty's pleasure; well knowing his own royal wisdom can have best determined his own choice, either to approve or disapprove what his Commons have now done.

Then

Then the Lord Chancellor said,

Mr. ONSLOW,

THE King has had such ample and satisfactory experience of your great abilities and zeal for the service of himself and your country, in the important station to which you are now a fifth time called by the general voice of his faithful Commons, that his Majesty has commanded us to let you know, that he entirely approves the choice which his Commons have made: and we do, by virtue of his Majesty's commission, and in his name, allow and confirm you to be their Speaker.

Then Mr. Speaker said,

My Lords,

SINCE his Majesty has been pleased to approve the choice the Commons have made of me to be their Speaker, it becomes me to submit to his royal determination, and to receive, with all humility and thankfulness, this fresh instance of his royal grace and favour to me; and for my encouragement therein, I have an humble hope of the continuance of his pardon of my failings and inurmities in it; at least, that they will not in any wise be imputed by his Majesty to his faithful Commons: and that they may be the better enabled to perform their duty to his Majesty and their country, I do, in their name and on their behalf, by humble petition to his Majesty, lay claim to all their ancient rights and privileges; particularly that they, their servants and estates, may be free from arrests and all other molestations—that they may enjoy freedom of speech in their debates, and have access to his royal person, as occasion may require—and that all their proceedings may receive from his Majesty the most favourable construction.

Then the Lord Chancellor said,

Mr. Speaker,

WE have it in command from the King to acquaint you; that his Majesty is fully persuaded of the prudence and temper of this House of Commons, as well as of their loyalty and duty.

And we do, by virtue of his Majesty's commission, and in his name, declare to you, that the King grants and allows to them
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all their privileges, in as full and ample manner as they have at any time heretofore been granted or allowed by his Majesty, or any of his royal predecessors.

As to what you, Sir, have desired on your own behalf, the King has never, through a long course of years, had any reason to apprehend that you can stand in need of such an indulgence; but his Majesty has commanded us to assure you of his gracious support in the discharge of your great and arduous trust; and that he will put the most favourable construction both upon your words and actions.

*Speech of the Lords Commissioners to both Houses of Parliament,
June 1, 1754.*

My Lords and Gentlemen,

IN pursuance of the authority given us by his Majesty's commission under the great seal, amongst other things, to declare the causes of your present meeting, we are by the King's command to acquaint you, that his Majesty has been graciously pleased to give you this early opportunity of coming together, in order that certain parliamentary proceedings may be gone through, which his Majesty judges it will be for the satisfaction of his good subjects to have completed without loss of time.

His Majesty does not think proper now to lay before you any points of general business, reserving every thing of that nature to the usual time of your assembling in the winter. But we are expressly directed to assure you, that his Majesty has the greatest confidence in the duty and good affections of this Parliament for his royal person, family, and government, and in their zeal for the true interest of their country; of which he doubts not to find the best effects.

We have nothing further in command from his Majesty, except to recommend to you, as well for the public convenience as your own, to give the utmost dispatch to what is at present necessary to come under your consideration.

His Majesty's most gracious Speech, November 14, 1754.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

IT is with great pleasure that I meet you in Parliament at a time when the late elections have afforded my people an opportunity of giving fresh proofs of their duty and affection to
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my person and government in the choice of their representatives.

The general state of affairs in Europe has received very little alteration since your last meeting. But I have the satisfaction to acquaint you, that I have lately received the strongest assurances from my good brother the King of Spain, of his firm resolution to cultivate friendship and confidence with me, with reciprocal acts of harmony and good faith; and that he will persevere in these sentiments. It shall be my principal view, as well to strengthen the foundations, and secure the duration of the general peace, as to improve the present advantages of it, for promoting the trade of my good subjects, and protecting those possessions, which make one great source of our commerce and wealth.

The plan formed by the last Parliament for appropriating the forfeited estates in the Highlands to the public benefit, appears to be of such national importance, that I am persuaded you will not omit any proper opportunity of completing it. Let me also recommend it to you, to make such further provisions as may be expedient for perpetuating the due execution of the laws, and the just authority of my government in that part of the united kingdom.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I have ordered the estimates for the ensuing year to be prepared and laid before you. The supplies which I have to ask of you are such as shall be necessary for the ordinary services; for the execution of such treaties as have been communicated to you, for consolidating and maintaining that system of tranquillity which is my great object; and, at the same time, for securing ourselves against any encroachments.

The gradual reduction of the national debt, which has been so wisely and successfully begun, will, I make no doubt, have your serious and constant attention.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

It is unnecessary for me to use any arguments to press upon you unanimity and dispatch in your proceedings. I have had such ample experience of the fidelity, zeal, and good disposition of my Parliaments, during the course of my reign, that I trust there is a mutual confidence established between us; the surest pledge of my own and my people's happiness.

Address

Address by the House of Lords to his Majesty, Nov. 15, 1754.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Lords spiritual and temporal, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to return your Majesty our humble thanks for your most gracious speech from the throne.

We are truly sensible of your Majesty's wife and public-spirited views to strengthen the foundations, and secure the duration of the general peace, in which every part of Europe is so nearly interceded. And nothing can excite our warmest gratitude more than that concern which you are pleased to express, that the advantages of this peace may be rendered lasting to your people, by promoting their commerce, and protecting those possessions which are so essential to it; and are an object of the public care, never to be departed from by this country.

The friendly assurances which your Majesty has lately received from the King of Spain, give us great satisfaction; as we promise ourselves that they will be followed with very salutary effects for advancing the important ends already mentioned, in which both nations will find a reciprocal benefit.

Your Majesty's goodness to your people, in consenting to apply the forfeited estates in the Highlands to those public uses to which they stand appropriated by the last Parliament, will always be thankfully remembered by us. We shall, with the greatest readiness, concur in any provisions that may render that measure as perfect and useful as possible, for improving that part of the united kingdom, and preserving its tranquillity.

The enforcing the due course and execution of the laws, and securing the authority of your Majesty's government there, of which those laws have always been the rule, are one and the same object, which will not fail to meet with our constant attention.

Permit us, Sir, to take this opportunity to renew the most solemn assurances of our inviolable fidelity and affection to your sacred person and government. In this, our duty and our interest unite and are inseparable. Our resolution is fixed and unalterable, to strengthen your Majesty's hands for preserving the peace; supporting the honour of your crown; and maintaining the rights and possessions of your kingdoms against any encroachments. The maxim graciously laid down by your Majesty, that a mutual confidence between you and your Parliament is the surest pledge of the happiness both of King and people, is highly worthy a British monarch; and it shall be our zealous endeavour, to demonstrate to the world the stability of

that confidence; and, under the protection of the Divine Providence, to transmit to our posterity the blessings of your Majesty's reign, in the perpetuity of the protestant succession in your royal house.

His Majesty's Answer, November 15, 1754.

My Lords,

I RETURN you my hearty thanks for this very dutiful and affectionate address.

The zeal you express for my person and government, and for maintaining the rights and possessions of my crown, cannot fail to have the best effects, both at home and abroad. The confidence which you repose in me, shall always be made use of for the true interest of my people.

Address by the House of Commons to his Majesty, Nov. 16, 1754.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WEL, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons of Great Britain, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to return you Majesty our unfeigned thanks for your most gracious speech from the throne; and to assure your Majesty, that your faithful Commons will gladly embrace every opportunity of testifying their inviolable attachment and duty to your royal person, family, and government.

It gives us the greatest satisfaction to find that the wise measures your Majesty has pursued for strengthening and securing the general peace, have been attended with so explicit a declaration on the part of the King of Spain, of his resolution to cultivate friendship and confidence with your Majesty.

We acknowledge, with the highest sense of gratitude, your Majesty's constant and uniform endeavours for the preservation of the public tranquillity, at the same time that your Majesty has not suffered your attention to be diverted from the necessary consideration of self-defence; and we assure your Majesty, that we will support your Majesty, and cheerfully grant such supplies as may give weight and efficacy to your Majesty's measures for the preservation of the general peace, and enable your Majesty to vindicate your just rights and possessions from all encroachments.

We beg leave to assure your Majesty, that nothing shall be wanting on our parts to complete and render effectual to the common benefit of the united kingdom, that salutary plan,
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formed by the last Parliament, for appropriating the forfeited estates in the Highlands to the uses of the public; and we assure your Majesty, that the gradual reduction of the national debt, and the improvement of trade and commerce, so essential to the strength and power of this kingdom, shall be the objects of our serious and constant attention.

His Majesty's Answer, November 18, 1754.

Gentlemen,

I RETURN you my thanks for your most dutiful and loyal address..

So early and unanimous a mark of the trust and confidence which my faithful Commons repose in me, gives me the greatest satisfaction.

You may rely on the continuance of my endeavours to preserve the public tranquillity, to assert and vindicate the just rights and possessions of my subjects, and to do every thing on my part, which can render this nation happy and flourishing both at home and abroad.

The humble Address of the Archbishop, Bishops, and Clergy of the Province of Canterbury, in Convocation assembled; presented to his Majesty on Tuesday, the twenty-sixth Day of November, 1754.

May it please your Majesty,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Archbishop, Bishops, and Clergy of the province of Canterbury, in Convocation assembled, beg leave to take this opportunity of our being convened by your royal command, to repeat the most cordial assurances of our inviolable duty and fidelity to your sacred person.

We have a strong and grateful sense of the happiness we have enjoyed during the whole course of your Majesty's reign; under which the obedience of your subjects, and particularly of your faithful clergy, has, by the goodness of your Majesty, been rendered a most easy duty.

Your Majesty has made the laws and constitution the rule of your just and equal government; and is never better pleased than when the same laws appear to be the measure of your people's loyalty.

The gracious assurances which your Majesty has so often given, and so religiously observed, that you would support the

church of England, as by law established, not only lay us under the highest obligations to your Majesty, but call upon us also to shew our thankfulness to God for so great and powerful a protector: and we are convinced how much it is incumbent upon us to demonstrate to the world, by our doctrines and examples, that the protestant church of England has not its equal, for the purity of its faith, the wisdom of its constitution, the decent regularity of its worship, a steady and well-grounded zeal against the corruptions of popery, its loyalty and affection to its governors, and moderation and candour to those who have the misfortune to dissent from it.

Such is the spirit of our establishment: and in forming our conduct by it, we acquit ourselves of our duty to God, and to our country; and render ourselves as acceptable, as we are invariably faithful, to your Majesty, and your illustrious house.

We see and lament the depravity of our times, evidenced beyond all former examples, not only by flagitious actions, but by the publication of writings, which strike at the very vitals of all religion, and shake the foundations of civil government. We engage ourselves to your Majesty, that we will exert ourselves to the utmost to maintain the honour of our most holy faith, by instilling the principles, and urging the great motives of it upon the consciences of men: by these means doing all in our power to preserve the peace and prosperity of the public, and strengthen the hands of the magistrate in the execution of those good laws, which have been formed with so much wisdom against irreligion, profaneness, and dissoluteness of manners.

Give us leave, Sir, to add our most ardent prayers to God, that he would extend your Majesty's days to the longest period of human life; that he would bless and prosper all the branches of your royal family; and that, under a line of princes derived from yourself, this nation may be as secure, in future times, from the mischiefs of licentiousness, as it has been, under your Majesty's auspicious government, from the danger of oppression.

His Majesty's Answer, November 26, 1754.

My Lords, and the rest of the Clergy,

I THANK you for this very dutiful and affectionate address. The zeal you express against the increase of immorality, and the publication of impious writings, is highly commendable, and gives me great satisfaction.

It shall be my constant care, to discourage licentiousness and infidelity; to support the church of England, as by law established.

blished ; and to protect all my subjects in the full enjoyment of their rights, both religious and civil.

Message from his Majesty to the House of Lords, March 26, 1755.

GEORGE REX.

HIS Majesty having at the beginning of this session declared, that his principal object was to preserve the public tranquillity, and, at the same time, to protect those possessions, which make one great source of the commerce and wealth of his kingdoms ; now finds it necessary to acquaint the House of Lords, that the present situation of affairs makes it requisite to augment his forces by sea and land ; and to take such other measures as may best tend to preserve the general peace of Europe, and to secure the just rights and possessions of his crown in America ; as well as to repel any attempts whatsoever, that may be made to support or countenance any designs which may be formed against his Majesty and his kingdoms : and his Majesty doubts not, but he shall have the concurrence and support of this house (on whose affection and zeal he entirely relies) in making such augmentations, and taking such measures, for the support of the honour of his crown, and the true interests of his people, and for the security of his dominions, in the present critical conjuncture, as the exigency of affairs may require : in doing which, his Majesty will have as much regard to the ease of his good subjects, as shall be consistent with their safety and welfare.

G. R.

Address by the House of Lords, March 26, 1755.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Lords spiritual and temporal, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to return your Majesty our humble thanks for your most gracious message.

Nothing can more clearly demonstrate your Majesty's paternal concern for the welfare and prosperity of your people, than the royal care and firm resolution which you have had the goodness to repeat to us, to maintain the just rights and possessions of your crown against all encroachments, and to protect the commerce of your kingdoms.

The preservation of the public peace is an object which your Majesty, out of your benevolent disposition for the good of your faithful subjects, as well as of mankind in general, will

always have at heart ; and we thankfully acknowledge your great wisdom in taking the most vigorous and effectual measures to prevent the infraction of it.

Duty and affection to your Majesty, zeal for your royal person, family, and government, have always been the great motives of our conduct. Warmed with these sentiments, and unalterably fixed in the same principles, we are fully convinced of what high importance it is, to strengthen your Majesty's hands in the present situation of affairs.

And we do, from the bottom of our hearts, assure your Majesty, that we will cheerfully and vigorously support your Majesty, in making such augmentations of your forces, by sea and land, and in taking such other measures, as events may make necessary, for maintaining the honour, rights, and possessions of your crown, and the true interests of your people, and for the security of your dominions, and that we will stand by and assist your Majesty, in repelling any attempts whatsoever that may be made to support or countenance any designs which may be formed against your Majesty and your kingdoms.

His Majesty's Answer, March 26, 1755.

My Lords, .

I THANK you for this affectionate address. Nothing shall be wanting on my part that may tend to the effectual support of the just rights and possessions of my crown, and of the true interests of my people. The confidence which you repose in me shall always be made use of with the strictest regard to those great and important objects.

His Majesty's most gracious Speech, April 25, 1755.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

THE many eminent proofs which you have given of your duty and affection to my person and government, during the course of this session of Parliament, have afforded me the greatest satisfaction ; and the zeal you have shewn for supporting the honour, rights, and possessions of my crown, has been no less agreeable to me.

My desire to preserve the public tranquillity has been sincere and uniform. I have religiously adhered to the stipulations of Aix-la-Chapelle ; and made it my care not to injure or give just cause of offence to any power whatsoever ; but I never could entertain a thought of purchasing the name of peace at the expense of suffering encroachments upon, or of yielding up, what
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is justly belonging to Great Britain, either by ancient possession, or by solemn treaties. Your vigour and firmness, on this important occasion, have enabled me to be prepared for such contingencies as may happen. If reasonable and honourable terms of accommodation can be agreed upon, I shall be satisfied. In all events, I shall rely on the justice of our cause, the effectual support of my people, and the protection of the Divine Providence.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I return you my thanks for the necessary provisions you have made for the service of the current year. The extraordinary supply which you have granted me, towards augmenting my forces by sea and land, is such a proof of your confidence in me, and of your constant attention to the service of your country, that I cannot sufficiently express the satisfaction I take in this reasonable care of the safety of my kingdoms and dominions, or the evidence it has produced of the extent of our public credit, and of the zeal of my subjects, in this conjuncture.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I have nothing to desire of you, but steadily to pursue those good principles, which you have so solemnly professed to me, and with so much honour to yourselves adhered to. Let it be your endeavour to maintain tranquillity and good order in your several countries, and to cultivate in my good subjects just notions of my government and measures, which are, and shall always be, directed to their happiness and prosperity.

And afterwards the Lord Chancellor, by his Majesty's command, said,

My Lords and Gentlemen,

IT is his Majesty's royal will and pleasure, that this Parliament be prorogued to Tuesday, the twenty-seventh day of May next, to be then here held: and this Parliament is accordingly prorogued to Tuesday, the twenty-seventh day of May next.

His Majesty's most gracious Speech, November 13, 1755.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

THE present critical conjuncture of affairs, and my constant inclination to have the advice and assistance of my Parliament on all important occasions, have made me desirous to meet you here as early as possible.

Since your last session, I have taken such measures as might be most conducive to the protection of our possessions in America, and to the regaining of such parts thereof, as had been encroached upon, or invaded, in violation of the peace, and contrary to the faith of the most solemn treaties.

For this purpose, the maritime force of this kingdom has been got ready with the utmost application and expedition, and been principally employed; some land forces have been sent from hence to North America; and all proper encouragement has been given to the several colonies there, to exert themselves in their own defence, and in the maintenance of the rights and possessions of Great Britain.

With a sincere desire to preserve my people from the calamities of war, as well as to prevent, in the midst of these troubles, a general war from being lighted up in Europe, I have been always ready to accept reasonable and honourable terms of accommodation; but none such have hitherto been proposed on the part of France. I have also confined my views and operations to hinder France from making new encroachments, or supporting those already made; to exert our right to a satisfaction for hostilities committed in a time of profound peace; and to disappoint such designs, as, from various appearances and preparations, there is reason to think, have been formed against my kingdoms and dominions.

By these methods I have pursued the plan which I formerly pointed out to you, and for which I had the satisfaction to receive the strongest assurances of your vigorous support.

What other power can object to proceedings so absolutely necessary to our own defence and security? my good brother, the King of Spain, sees with concern these differences; and the part which he generously takes in the common welfare of Europe, makes him earnestly wish the preservation of the public tranquillity. He has also given assurances, that he will continue in the same pacific sentiments.

In pursuing these great ends, I make no doubt of the vigorous and cheerful support of my Parliament; and that, whilst I am engaged in this just and national cause, the affectionate assurances which they gave me the last session will be effectually made good. In consequence thereof, I have greatly increased my naval armaments; augmented my land forces in such a manner as might be the least burthenome; and have concluded a treaty with the Empress of Russia, and another with the Landgrave of Hesse Cassel, which shall be laid before you.

Gentlemen

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I have ordered the proper officers to lay before you estimates for the service of the ensuing year, and likewise accounts of the extraordinary expenses which have been made this year in pursuance of the power given me by Parliament. I see, with great concern, that the necessary services before mentioned will require large supplies. I ask only such as shall be requisite for the effectual carrying on of those measures which shall be necessary to support what has been begun, according to your inclination, for the security of my kingdoms and dominions, and for the purposes which have been already mentioned to you. Whatever you grant, shall, with the strictest œconomy, be applied to those uses only for which it shall be given.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I rely upon your duty and good affections, which I have so often experienced. There never was a situation in which my honour, and the essential interests of Great Britain, called more strongly for your zeal, unanimity, and dispatch.

Address to his Majesty by the House of Lords, Nov. 14, 1755.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Lords spiritual and temporal, in Parliament assembled, humbly beg leave to return your Majesty our unfeigned thanks for your most gracious speech from the throne.

Your Majesty's paternal regard for the welfare and prosperity of your people, which has been so conspicuous on all occasions, has, in this critical conjuncture, been demonstrated by your Majesty's earnest desire to preserve them from the calamities of war, and by your royal firmness, in not yielding to any terms of accommodation that were not reasonable and honourable.

When we consider the high importance of the British possessions and rights in America to the commerce and well-being of these kingdoms, we cannot but reflect with concern, as well as resentment, that, in a time of full peace, and contrary to the faith of the most solemn treatie, so many encroachments should have been committed on the part of France. Nothing can exceed our surprise at such a conduct, but our gratitude to your Majesty, for so powerfully exerting your royal care to protect your colonies from such invasions and insults, and to redress those encroachments which had been so unjustly made.

If any power could be so much mistaken, as to imagine that your Majesty, or your Parliament, would remain unactive spectators of such unprovoked hostilities, they must before now have been convinced of their error.

We thankfully acknowledge your Majesty's wisdom and goodness in increasing your maritime armaments with so great application and expedition, and in augmenting your land forces with so much regard to the ease of your people, whilst you were providing for their safety; and in having, at the same time, generously given encouragement to that great body of your Majesty's brave and faithful subjects, with which your American provinces happily abound, to exert their strength on this important occasion, as their duty, interest, and common danger, oblige, and strongly call upon them to do.

Your Majesty has sufficiently shewn, that no motives of ambition, or of fomenting new troubles, have been the grounds of your conduct. Your prudence and magnanimity have been manifested to all the world, by your evident disposition to prevent a general war from breaking out in Europe, and by confining your views and operations to those salutary and necessary ends, which your Majesty has been graciously pleased to declare to us.

It is with pleasure we observe the pacific declarations of his Catholic Majesty, which are so agreeable to the amity and good correspondence subsisting between the two crowns, and to the general welfare of Europe.

We should fall short of that duty which we owe to your Majesty and our country, if we did not, with the greatest sincerity and cheerfulness, promise your Majesty our most zealous and vigorous concurrence and assistance in this just and national cause. Nothing shall be wanting, on our part, to make good those solemn assurances which were given to your Majesty by your Parliament in their last session. We look upon ourselves as obliged by the strongest ties of duty, gratitude, and honour, to stand by and support your Majesty in all such wise and necessary measures and engagements, as your Majesty may have taken in vindication of the rights of your crown; or to defeat any attempt which may be made by France in resentment for such measures; and to assist your Majesty in disappointing or repelling all such enterprises as may be formed, not only against your kingdoms, but also against any other of your dominions, although not belonging to the crown of Great Britain, in case they should be attacked on account of the part which your Majesty has taken for maintaining the essential interests of your kingdoms.

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Animated with these great and interesting considerations, we beg leave, from the bottom of our hearts, to assure your Majesty of our inviolable duty and affection to your sacred person; and that we look upon the preservation of your Majesty's government, and of the protestant succession in your royal house, as the only security, under God, of our religion and liberties. If there are any who have vainly flattered themselves, that menacing appearances or preparations could deter us from faithfully and vigorously acting up to these principles, our unshaken conduct shall demonstrate how much they have been deceived; and that, though we are far from desiring to injure or molest any of our neighbours, we are ready to sacrifice our lives and fortunes in the defence of your Majesty, and of the possessions, commerce, and just rights of Great Britain.

His Majesty's Answer, November 14, 1755.

My Lords,

I GIVE you my hearty thanks for this very dutiful and affectionate address. I see, with the greatest satisfaction, the zeal you express for my person and government, and for the true interest of your country which I am determined to adhere to. The assurances you give me for the defence of my territories abroad, are a strong proof of your affection to me, and regard for my honour. Nothing shall divert me from pursuing those measures which may effectually maintain the possessions and rights of my kingdoms, and procure reasonable and honourable terms of accommodation.

Address to his Majesty by the House of Commons, Nov. 14, 1755.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons of Great Britain, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to return your Majesty our humble thanks for your most gracious speech from the throne; and to congratulate your Majesty upon your safe and happy return into these kingdoms.

With hearts full of gratitude we offer to your Majesty our dutiful acknowledgements for your paternal care and endeavours to preserve to your people the blessings of peace; and, when terms consistent with the true interest of this kingdom could not be obtained, for the great expedition with which your Majesty caused your naval force to be got ready, and the magnanimity
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and resolution your Majesty has shewn, at the hazard of all events, to defend the British dominions in America, not only encroached upon, but openly attacked by the French in a time of full peace, and further threatened and endangered by a large embarkation of troops from Europe.

We are truly sensible of your Majesty's great wisdom and moderation in being desirous, though so highly provoked, to listen to a reasonable accommodation, and, in endeavouring to avoid the calamities of a general war, by confining your operations to measures necessary for defence ; a conduct which must demonstrate to the other powers of Europe the uprightness of your Majesty's intentions, and convince them that your Majesty is not the aggressor.

The King of Spain's generous concern for the common welfare of Europe, and the assurances he has given your Majesty of his desire to preserve the public tranquillity, give us the greatest satisfaction.

We beg leave to assure your Majesty, that your dutiful and faithful Commons will vigorously and cheerfully support your Majesty in all such wise and necessary measures and engagements as your Majesty may have taken to vindicate the just rights and possessions of your crown, and to guard against any attempts which France may make on account of your Majesty's not having submitted to their unjustifiable encroachments ; and that we think ourselves bound in justice and gratitude to assist your Majesty against insults and attacks that may be made upon any of your Majesty's dominions, though not belonging to the crown of Great Britain, in resentment of the part your Majesty has taken in a cause wherein the interests of this kingdom are immediately and so essentially concerned.

We are humbly thankful to your Majesty for your tender care in directing the necessary augmentation of your land forces to be made in the manner the least burthensome to your people.

We assure your Majesty, that your faithful Commons will grant your Majesty such supplies as shall be found necessary in this great conjuncture ; and that we will, in all our deliberations, manifest to the world, that we have sincerely at heart the honour of our King, the support of his government, and the true interest of this country.

His Majesty's Answer, November 17, 1755.

Gentlemen,

I THANK you for this dutiful and loyal address.

You may be assured, although I wish for nothing more than a safe and honourable accommodation, I am determined to protect and maintain the valuable and undoubted rights and possessions of my crown.

Your assurances that you will assist me in the defence of my foreign dominions, if they should be attacked on account of the measures I am pursuing for the true interest of these kingdoms, are such proofs of your affection to me, and of your regard to my honour, as give me the greatest satisfaction.

Message from his Majesty to the House of Lords, Nov. 28, 1755.

GEORGE REX.

HIS Majesty having received from his ambassador at Madrid a certain account of the fatal and deplorable event which happened at Lisbon on the first instant by an earthquake, which has laid waste almost the whole city, and destroyed many thousands of the inhabitants; in consequence whereof, those who remain must be reduced to the utmost distress; and his Majesty, being moved with the greatest concern for so good and faithful an ally as the King of Portugal, and with the utmost compassion for the distresses to which that city and kingdom must be reduced, wherein great numbers of his Majesty's own subjects were resident, and many more interested; recommends to the House of Lords the consideration of this dreadful and extensive calamity which cannot fail deeply to affect the hearts of all persons who have any sense of religion or humanity; and desires the concurrence and assistance of the House of Lords, in sending such speedy and effectual relief as may be suitable to so afflicting and pressing an exigency.

G. R.

Effect of the Lords Answer.

ORDERED by the Lords spiritual and temporal, in Parliament assembled, that an humble address be presented to his Majesty, to return him the thanks of this House for his most gracious message; and to express our just and high sense of his Majesty's royal concern for the great misfortune that has befallen his Majesty's good and faithful ally, the King of Portugal;

Portugal ; and for his generous compassion expressed for the miseries of the unhappy sufferers by that dreadful and extraordinary calamity, which is so agreable to his Majesty's known humanity and greatness of mind.

To declare how deeply we are affected with this melancholy and deplorable event, and to assure his Majesty of the hearty concurrence and assistance of this House, in sending such speedy and effectual relief as may be suitable to so afflicting and pressing an exigency.

Message from his Majesty to the House of Commons, Jan. 28, 1756.

GEORGE REX.

HIS Majesty, being sensible of the zeal and vigour with which his faithful subjects of certain colonies in North America have exerted themselves in defence of his Majesty's just rights and possessions, recommends it to this House to take the same into their consideration, and to enable his Majesty to give them such assistance as may be a proper reward and encouragement.

Message from his Majesty to the House of Lords, March 23, 1756.

GEORGE REX.

HIS Majesty has received repeated advices from different places and persons, that a design has been formed by the French court to make a hostile invasion upon Great Britain or Ireland ; and the great preparations of land forces, ships, artillery, and warlike stores, now notoriously making in the ports of France opposite to the British coasts, together with the language held by the French ministers in some foreign courts, leave little room to doubt of the reality of such a design ; his Majesty has therefore judged it necessary to acquaint the House of Commons with intelligence of such high importance to the safety and well-being of these nations ; and, at the same time, to inform them, that, in pursuance of the advice and assurances of his Parliament, he has augmented his forces by sea and land, and taken proper measures and precautions for putting his kingdoms in a posture of defence against so unjust and desperate an enterprize, projected in revenge for those just and necessary measures which have been taken for maintaining the rights and possessions of his crown and subjects in North America : that in order further to strengthen himself, his Majesty has made a requisition of a body of Hessian troops, pursuant

suant to the treaty lately made with the Landgrave of Hesse Cassel, to be forthwith brought over hither, for which purpose transports are ordered: his Majesty, trusting in the Divine protection, and in the good affections, zeal, and fidelity of his people, which he has so often experienced, is determined to neglect no means of defence, but to exert all the force which God has put into his hands, to repel so daring an attempt; and his Majesty doubts not that he will be enabled and supported by his faithful Commons, in taking all such measures as may be conducive to an end so essential to the honour of his crown, the preservation of the protestant religion, and the laws and liberties of these kingdoms. G. R.

Order by the Lords.

ORDERED by the Lords spiritual and temporal, in Parliament assembled, that an humble address be presented to his Majesty to return him the thanks of this House for his most gracious message, and for informing us of the advices which his Majesty has received of the designs and preparations of the French, court against Great Britain or Ireland.

To assure his Majesty, that this House looks with the utmost indignation upon so unjust and daring an attempt as that of invading these kingdoms in revenge for the generous and steady conduct his Majesty has held, in maintaining the just rights and possessions of his crown and subjects in North America, against the unprovoked aggressions and hostilities originally commenced on the part of France; and humbly to intreat his Majesty not to suffer himself to be diverted from it by any appearances whatsoever.

To acknowledge with gratitude the prudent measures and precautions which his Majesty has taken for putting his kingdoms in a posture of defence, and for having made the requisition of a body of Hessian troops to be brought over hither, in consequence of the treaty lately concluded with the Landgrave of Hesse Cassel.

To beseech his Majesty to pursue his gracious resolution of exerting all the force which God has put into his hands, to disappoint and repel so desperate an undertaking; and, particularly, to augment his army in Ireland in such manner as he shall think necessary.

To assure his Majesty, that we will, with unshaken zeal, vigour, and unanimity, at the hazard of our lives and fortunes, stand by his Majesty against all his enemies, and support him in all such measures as he shall find requisite in this critical conjuncture; this House not in the least doubting, that even

the menace of so injurious and presumptuous an enterprise, will create the highest detestation in all who call themselves Britons and protestants ; and raise a becoming spirit in all his Majesty's subjects for the defence of his sacred person and government, the protestant succession in his royal family, and the religion, laws, and liberties of these kingdoms.

His Majesty was pleased to answer,

THAT he thanks the House of Lords for the repeated assurances of their unalterable zeal, duty, and affection to his Majesty on this occasion, and has the utmost confidence in their vigorous support.

His Majesty's most gracious Speech, May 27, 1756.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

AFTER so long and unwearied application to the public business, it is reasonable that I should give you some recess. I must, at the same time, return you my hearty thanks for the vigorous and effectual support you have given me, in maintaining that just and national cause in which I am engaged.

The injuries and hostilities which have been, for some time, committed by the French against my dominions and subjects, are now followed by the actual invasion of the island of Minorca ; which stands guaranteed to me by all the great powers of Europe, and in particular by the French king. I have therefore found myself obliged, in vindication of the honour of my crown, and of the rights of my people, to declare war in form against France. I rely on the Divine protection, and the vigorous assistance of my faithful subjects, in so just a cause.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I return you my hearty thanks for the readiness and dispatch with which you have granted me such large supplies. You may depend on their being strictly applied to the good purposes for which they were given.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

Nothing has given me more inward satisfaction than the confidence which you repose in me. It is the most acceptable return you could make to me ; and, you may be assured, shall be made use of only for your good. The preservation of your religion,

religion, liberties, and independency, is, and always shall be, my great aim ; and I trust you will not be wanting to yourselves.

Then the Lord Chancellor, having received directions from his Majesty, said,

My Lords and Gentlemen,

IT is his Majesty's pleasure that both Houses of Parliament should forthwith severally adjourn themselves to Friday the 18th day of June next.

His Majesty's most gracious Speech, December 2, 1756.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I HAVE called you together in a conjuncture which highly requires the deliberation, advice, and assistance of Parliament ; and I trust, that (under the guidance of Divine Providence) union and firmness in my affectionate people will carry me, with honour, through all difficulties ; and finally vindicate the dignity of my crown, and its undubitable rights, against the ancient enemy of these kingdoms.

The succour and preservation of America cannot but constitute a main object of my attention and solicitude ; and the growing dangers to which our colonies may stand exposed, from our late losses in those parts, demand resolutions of vigour and dispatch.

An adequate and firm defence at home must have the chief place in my thoughts ; and, in this great view, I have nothing so much at heart, as that no ground of dissatisfaction may remain in my people.

To this end, a national militia, planned and regulated with equal regard to the just rights of my crown and people, may, in time, become one good resource, in case of general danger ; and I recommend the framing of such a militia to the care and diligence of my Parliament.

The unnatural union of councils abroad, the calamities which, in consequence of this unhappy conjunction, may, by irruptions of foreign armies into the empire, shake its constitutions, overturn its system, and threaten oppression to the protestant interest there, are events which must sensibly affect the minds of this nation, and have fixed the eyes of all Europe on this new and dangerous crisis.

The body of my electoral troops, which I ordered hither at the desire of my Parliament, I have directed to return to my dominions

dominions in Germany ; relying, with pleasure, on the spirit and zeal of my people in defence of my person and realm.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I will order the proper estimates to be laid, in due time, before you ; and I rely on your wisdom, that you will prefer more vigorous efforts (though attended with large expence) to a less effectual, and therefore less frugal plan of war.

I have placed before you the dangers and necessities of the public ; it will be your care to lay, in such a manner, the burdens you may judge unavoidable, as will least distress and exhaust my people.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I cannot here be unmindful of the sufferings of the poorer sort, from the present high price of corn, and the disturbances which have arisen therefrom ; and I recommend to you to consider of proper provisions for preventing the like mischiefs hereafter.

Unprosperous events of war, in the Mediterranean, have drawn from my subject's signal proofs how dearly they tender my honour, and that of my crown ; and they cannot, on my part, fail to meet with just returns of unwearied care, and unceasing endeavours for the glory, prosperity, and happiness of my people.

Address by the House of Lords to his Majesty, Dec. 3, 1756.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Lords spiritual and temporal, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to return your Majesty our humble thanks for your most gracious speech from the throne.

The importance of the present crisis, and the dangerous consequences which may result from the unnatural union of councils in Europe, are so sensibly felt by this House, that we should think ourselves wanting in duty to your Majesty, and our country, if we did not beg leave to offer, at your royal feet, our strongest assurances that we will, to the utmost of our power, promote and effectuate such measures as shall be found expedient for vindicating the honour of your crown, and asserting the just rights of your Majesty and your subjects.

Permit us to return your Majesty our most humble and grateful thanks for your Majesty's gracious condescension to the request of your Parliament, in causing a body of your electoral

electoral troops to come into this country at a conjuncture so critical to its preservation and defence.

With the deepest sense of our obligations to your Majesty, we beg leave to approach your throne, there to offer the tribute of our warmest gratitude for that paternal care and sollicitude which your Majesty has expressed for the succour and preservation of America ; nor are we less sensibly affected with your Majesty's gracious attention to the safety and honour of this kingdom, by recommending to our care the forming such a plan of defence at home as may enable your Majesty to exert the power of Great Britain with vigour and success abroad.

The many blessings we enjoy under your Majesty's mild and gracious government call for the warmest and sincerest acknowledgments of our hearts ; and demand, on our part, the most firm and loyal assurances to your Majesty, that, not discouraged by any unprosperous events of war, we will, with the greater ardour and alacrity, employ our most zealous efforts to extricate your Majesty from all difficulties, with honour and dignity to your Majesty's crown and prosperity to your people.

We beg leave to return your Majesty the thanks of this House for the tender and compassionate regard your Majesty has shewn to the sufferings of the poorer sort from the high price of corn ; and to assure your Majesty, that we will take that matter into our immediate consideration, in order to provide such speedy and adequate relief as the nature and importance of the case require.

His Majesty's Answer, Decr 3, 1756.

My Lords,

I RETURN you my hearty thanks for this very dutiful and affectionate address. The warm expressions with which you repeat the assurances of your determination to exert yourselves in the defence of the rights and possessions of my crown, give me the greatest satisfaction ; and you may be assured, the only uses I shall make of the confidence you repose in me, will be to pursue such measures as the present critical conjuncture renders necessary for the welfare and prosperity of my kingdoms.

Address by the House of Commons, December 3, 1756.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons of Great Britain, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to return your Majesty our humble thanks for your most gracious speech from the throne.

Your faithful Commons, excited by duty, and warm with gratitude, do, from our hearts, acknowledge the paternal care and royal condescension of your Majesty, in pointing out from the throne such a plan of force for our defence as may best tend to the satisfaction of your people, and, in particular, a well-modelled national militia, as one proper security for your Majesty's person and realm.

In this present arduous conjuncture, your faithful Commons, next after Divine Providence, rely on your Majesty's wisdom and magnanimity, remembering British efforts in times past, under princes whose first glory was to found, like your Majesty, the strength of their government in the contentment and harmony of their subjects.

Thus united, and thus animated, this House will cheerfully support your Majesty through all difficulties, and vindicate, to the utmost, the dignity of your crown, and its undubitable rights against the ancient enemy of these kingdoms.

We trust, your Majesty, strong at home, will find yourself revered abroad, and in a condition to support that weight and consideration in Europe which belong to a King of Great Britain, notwithstanding the unnatural and unhappy union of councils which have formed on the continent so new and dangerous a crisis.

This House thinks, with pain, on the sad events of war in the Mediterranean and in America; they will take these affecting matters into their most serious consideration, not imputing blame to any unheard; and will, with all confidence, alacrity, and dispatch, second your Majesty's royal care for the speedy succour and preservation of America under the growing dangers to which those invaluable possessions stand exposed.

We beg leave to assure your Majesty, that your faithful Commons will consider of proper provisions for the relief of the poorer sort from the present high price of corn, and for preventing the like mischiefs hereafter, according to the royal and compassionate recommendation of your Majesty.

His

His Majesty's Answer, December 4, 1756.

Gentlemen,

I RETURN you my thanks for this dutiful and affectionate address.

Nothing can give me so great satisfaction, or tend so much to the public safety, as union and harmony amongst my subjects.

You may rely on my constant care and attention to the welfare of my people.

December 4, 1756.

Resolutions and Orders of the Right Honourable the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, in Parliament assembled, upon Complaint made to their Lordships of a spurious and forged printed Paper, dispersed and publicly sold as his Majesty's Speech to both Houses of Parliament, December 2, 1756.

COMPLAINT having been made to the House of a spurious and forged printed paper, dispersed and publicly sold as the King's speech, intituled, "His Majesty's most gracious Speech to both Houses of Parliament, on Thursday the 2d day of December 1756, London, printed by T. Baskett, and by the Assigns of R. Baskett, Printer to his Majesty, 1756." And oath being made at the bar, that James How and George King were concerned in printing and publishing thereof ;

It is resolved, by the Lords spiritual and temporal, in Parliament assembled, that the said printed paper is an audacious forgery, and a false, scandalous, and infamous libel ; a high contempt of his Majesty, his crown, and dignity, and a notorious violation of the privileges of Parliament ; tending to poison the minds of the people, and to create and foment jealousies and animosities amongst his Majesty's good subjects in this time of common danger.

Resolved, That, in abhorrence and detestation of such abominable and seditious practices, one of the said printed papers be burnt by the hands of the common hangman in the New Palace Yard, Westminster, on Wednesday, the 8th day of this instant December, at one o'clock in the afternoon ; and that another of the said printed papers be burnt by the hands of the common hangman ; before the Royal Exchange, in London, on Friday, the 10th day of this instant December, at the same hour ; and that the sheriffs of London and Middlesex do attend at the said times and places respectively, and cause the same to be burnt there accordingly.

Ordered, That the gentleman usher of the black rod attending this House do forthwith attach the bodies of the said James How and George King, for their said offence, and keep them in safe custody till the further order of this House.

Ordered, That the matter of the said complaint be taken into further consideration on Wednesday, the 15th day of this instant December, and that the Lords be summoned.

Ordered, That the abovesaid resolutions and orders be forthwith printed and published.

ASHLEY COWPER,
Clerk Parliamentor

Message from his Majesty to the House of Commons, Feb. 17, 1757.

GEORGE REX.

IT is always with reluctance that his Majesty asks any extraordinary supplies of his people; but as the united councils, and formidable preparations of France and her allies, threaten with the most alarming consequences Europe in general; and as these most unjust and vindictive designs are particularly and immediately bent against his Majesty's electoral dominions, and those of his good ally the King of Prussia, his Majesty confides in the experienced zeal and affection of his faithful Commons, that they will cheerfully assist him in forming and maintaining an army of observation for the just and necessary defence and preservation thereof, and enable his Majesty to fulfil his engagements with the King of Prussia, for the security of the empire against the irruption of foreign armies, and for the support of the common cause.

Message from his Majesty to the House of Commons, Feb. 26, 1757.

GEORGE REX.

HIS Majesty, agreeably to his royal word, for the sake of justice, and of example to the discipline of the navy, and for the safety and honour of the nation, was determined to have let the law take its course, with relation to Admiral Byng, as upon Monday next; and resisted all solicitations to the contrary.

But being informed that a member of the House of Commons, who was a member of the court martial which tried the said admiral, has, in his place, applied to the House in behalf of himself, and several other members of the said court, praying the aid of Parliament to be released from the oath of secrecy

crecy imposed on courts martial, in order to disclose the grounds whereon sentence of death passed on the said admiral; the result of which discovery may shew the sentence to be improper; his Majesty has thought fit to respite the execution of the same, in order that there may be an opportunity of knowing, by the separate examination of the members of the said court upon oath, what ground there is for the above suggestion.

His Majesty is determined still to let this sentence be carried into execution, unless it shall appear, from the said examination, that Admiral Byng was unjustly condemned.

G. R.

*Message from his Majesty to the House of Commons,
May 16, 1757.*

GEORGE REX.

HIS Majesty being desirous that his faithful subjects in his provinces of North and South Carolina and Virginia, in America, should receive a proper recompence for such services as, with the approbation of the commander in chief of his forces in America, they respectively shall have performed, or shall perform, either by putting the said provinces in a state of defence, or by acting with vigour against the enemy, recommends it to this House to take the same into their consideration, and to enable his Majesty to give them a proper recompence for such services: his Majesty also acquaints this House, that a battalion of his forces, which has been employed in the settlements of the united company of merchants in England trading to the East Indies, is by his order withdrawn from those settlements; and therefore recommends it to this House, to enable his Majesty to assist the said company in defraying the expence of a military force in the East Indies, to be maintained by them in lieu of the said battalion.

G. R.

*Message from his Majesty to the House of Commons,
May 17, 1757.*

GEORGE REX.

HIS Majesty, relying on the experienced zeal and affection of his faithful Commons, and considering that, in this critical conjuncture, emergencies may arise, which may be of the utmost importance, and be attended with the most pernicious consequences, if proper means should not immediately be applied to prevent or defeat them, is desirous that this House will enable him to defray any extraordinary expenses of the

war incurred, or to be incurred, for the service of the year 1757; and to take all such measures as may be necessary to disappoint or defeat any enterprizes or designs of his enemies, and as the exigency of affairs may require.

G. R.

His Majesty's most gracious Speech, July 4, 1757.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

AFTER so long and diligent an attendance upon the public business, it is time that I should give you some recess. But I cannot put an end to the session without expressing my entire satisfaction in the many proofs I have received of your zeal and affection for my person and government, and of your unfeigned concern for my honour and real support.

The succour and preservation of my dominions in America have been my constant care; and, next to the security of my kingdoms, they shall continue to be my great and principal object: and I have taken such measures, as, I trust, by the blessing of God, may effectually disappoint the designs of my enemies in those parts.

I have had no other view but to vindicate the just rights of my crown and subjects from the most injurious encroachments; to preserve tranquillity, as far as the circumstances of things might admit; and to prevent our true friends, and the liberties of Europe, from being oppressed or endangered by any unprovoked and unnatural conjunction.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I thank you for the large supplies which you have so cheerfully and unanimously given me. It affords me great pleasure, that the frugal use made of the confidence reposed in me the last year, has been an inducement to you to renew the same; and you may be assured, that it shall be applied only to the purposes for which it was intended.

I shall be particularly attentive to reduce all unnecessary expenses, in order the better to provide for the great and requisite services of the war.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I have nothing to desire of you, but what is equally essential to your own interest, and to my service. Let it be your constant endeavour to promote harmony and good agreement amongst my faithful subjects; that, by our union at home, we may be the better able to repel and frustrate abroad the dangerous designs of the enemies of my crown.

Then

Then the Lord Keeper, by his Majesty's command, said,
My Lords and Gentlemen,

IT is his Majesty's royal will and pleasure, that this Parliament be prorogued to Thursday, the eleventh day of August next, to be then here held: and this Parliament is accordingly prorogued to Thursday, the eleventh day of August next.

His Majesty's most gracious Speech, December 1, 1757.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

IT would have given me the greatest pleasure to have acquainted you, at the opening of this session, that our success in carrying on the war had been equal to the justice of our cause, and the extent and vigour of the measures formed for that purpose.

I have the firmest confidence that the spirit and bravery of this nation, so renowned in all times, and which have formerly surmounted so many difficulties, are not to be abated by some disappointments. These, I trust, by the blessing of God, and your zeal and ardour for my honour, and the welfare of your country, may be retrieved. It is my fixed resolution to apply my utmost efforts for the security of my kingdoms, and for the recovery and protection of the possessions and rights of my crown and subjects in America, and elsewhere; as well by the strongest exertion of our naval force, as by all other methods. Another great object which I have at heart, is the preservation of the protestant religion, and the liberties of Europe; and, in that view, to adhere to and encourage my allies.

For this cause I shall decline no inconveniencies; and, in this cause, I earnestly desire your hearty concurrence and vigorous assistance. The late signal success in Germany has given a happy turn to affairs, which it is incumbent upon us to improve; and, in this critical conjuncture, the eyes of all Europe are upon you. In particular, I must recommend it to you, that my good brother and ally, the King of Prussia, may be supported in such a manner as his magnanimity and active zeal for the common cause deserve.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

It gives me the utmost concern, that the large supplies which you have already granted for carrying on the war, have not produced all the good effects we had reason to hope for. But

I have so great a reliance on your wisdom as not to doubt of your perseverance. I only desire such supplies as shall be necessary for the public service ; and to that end, have ordered the proper estimates to be laid before you. You may depend upon it that the best and most faithful œconomy shall be used.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I have had such ample experience of the loyalty and good affections of my faithful subjects towards me, my family, and government, in all circumstances, that I am confident they are not to be shaken. But I cannot avoid taking notice of that spirit of disorder which has shewn itself amongst the common people in some parts of the kingdom : let me recommend to you to do your part in discouraging and suppressing such abuses, and for maintaining the laws and lawful authority. If any thing shall be found wanting to explain and enforce what may have been misunderstood or misrepresented, I am persuaded it will not escape your attention.

Nothing can be so conducive to the defence of all that is dear to us, as well as for reducing our enemies to reason, as union and harmony amongst ourselves.

Address to his Majesty by the House of Lords, Dec. 2, 1757.

Most Gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Lords spiritual and temporal, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to return your Majesty our humble thanks for your most gracious speech from the throne.

The concern which you are pleased to express for the disappointments that have unhappily attended some of the measures formed by your Majesty this year for carrying on the just war in which we are engaged, is a fresh mark of your paternal regard for the welfare of your people, and for the glory of this kingdom.

The testimony which your Majesty has at the same time given to the spirit and bravery of this nation, and to the ardent zeal of your Parliament to retrieve these misfortunes, is a proof of the justice done by your royal mind to our principles and sentiments, and the greatest encouragement to persevere in them.

Affected, therefore, as we are with these events, we are not discouraged ; but we sincerely promise your Majesty our hearty concurrence and most vigorous assistance in accomplishing, under the protection of the Divine Providence, your wise and gracious intentions for our defence and safety at home, and for
recovering

recovering and securing the rights and possessions of your crown and subjects in America and elsewhere, particularly by the utmost exertion of that essential part of our strength, your naval force.

The preservation of the protestant religion and the liberties of Europe are objects never to be forgotten by us. Of this pure religion and these invaluable liberties, Great Britain has in all times been a principal bulwark, and cannot fail to continue so under your Majesty's auspicious reign.

As the late signal success in Germany fills us with unfeigned joy, so it animates our hopes to see this glorious cause revive: and we do, with equal thankfulness and satisfaction, acknowledge your Majesty's generous declaration, that for the sake of it you will decline no inconveniences.

To defend your Majesty against all your enemies, to support your honour and real interests, and to strengthen your hands, are our indispensable duty. It shall also be our endeavour to improve this success to the most useful purposes; and to exert ourselves in supporting your good ally the King of Prussia, whose magnanimity and unexampled firmness are so evident to all the world, and of such great utility to the common cause.

We have seen with the utmost abhorrence that spirit of disorder and riot which has shewn itself of late amongst the common people. We are sensible that it is inconsistent with all government, and necessary to be reformed and suppressed. Nothing shall be wanting on our part for this salutary purpose, and to enforce and add strength to the laws and lawful authority, on which the liberty and property of the meanest as well as of the chief of your subjects depend.

Your Majesty's kind admonition of the necessity of union and harmony amongst ourselves, is highly worthy the common father of your people. We will always have it before our eyes. And we give your Majesty the strongest assurances that our loyalty and good affections to your Majesty and your royal family, of which we have on all occasions given real proofs, are never to be shaken or diminished. The preservation of your sacred person, the stability of your government, and the continuance of the protestant succession in your illustrious house, will ever be most dear to us, and essential to the happiness of all your people.

His Majesty's Answer, December 2, 1757.

My Lords,

NOTHING could possibly give me greater satisfaction than this very dutiful and affectionate address. I heartily thank you for it, and make no doubt but the zeal and vigour which you so seasonably express in this critical conjuncture, will have the best effects both at home and abroad.

Address by the House of Commons to his Majesty, Dec. 2, 1757.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons of Great Britain, in Parliament assembled, return your Majesty our humble thanks for your most gracious speech from the throne.

We beg leave to assure your Majesty that this House sees with the deepest concern the success of your Majesty's arms so unequal to the justice of your cause, and to the extent and vigour of the measures formed for that purpose.

Your faithful Commons firmly rely, that as your Majesty in your royal justice has endeavoured to trace the causes of past disappointments, your Majesty will also in your high wisdom open better hopes of future prosperities, by invigorating our enterprises, and animating the attempts of the British arms; and in this confidence they will cheerfully support your Majesty in the utmost efforts for the security of your kingdoms, and for the recovery and protection of the possessions and rights of your crown and subjects in America and elsewhere, as well by the strongest exertion of your Majesty's naval force, as by all other adequate methods.

Permit us to assure your Majesty, that your faithful Commons, excited by zeal for the protestant cause and the liberties of Europe, do, with most unfeigned joy, humbly offer their congratulations to your Majesty on the late signal success in Germany; and that they will vigorously and effectually enable your Majesty to improve the happy turn of affairs there, and in particular to support your good ally the King of Prussia in such a manner as the magnanimity and the unexampled efforts of that great prince, in defence of the religious and civil liberties of Europe, deserve and require.

We should be wanting to ourselves and to those we represent, not to acknowledge with all dutiful gratitude, your Ma-
jesty's

Majesty's paternal and seasonable care for the interior tranquillity and safety of your subjects, in having been graciously pleased to recommend to us to do our part for maintaining the laws and lawful authority against that spirit of disorder which has shewn itself amongst the lower people in some parts of the kingdom, and we will not fail in due time to take into our most serious consideration the properest methods for discouraging and suppressing such abuses, and for preventing the causes of the like mischiefs hereafter.

His Majesty's Answer, December 5, 1757.

Gentlemen,

I RETURN you my thanks for your dutiful and affectionate address, and for this unanimous mark of your zeal for the honour of my crown and the support of the common cause, and particularly of my good brother and ally the King of Prussia.

You may depend on my constant endeavours for the safety and welfare of my kingdoms, and for the preservation of the liberties of Europe.

Message from his Majesty to the House of Lords, April 13, 1758.

GEORGE REX.

HIS Majesty has nothing more at heart than the vigorous prosecution of the just war in which he is engaged against France, in order to the obtaining of a safe and honourable peace; and for that end has lately entered into a convention with his good brother and ally the King of Prussia, a copy whereof he has ordered to be laid before this House.

That his Majesty might be in such a posture as might enable him to support the operations which should be concerted between him and the King of Prussia with the greater vigour, the army formed last year in his electoral dominions, was, by his orders, put again into motion, from the 28th of November last, which it has pleased God to bless with very considerable successes against the enemy. His Majesty, therefore, considering the exhausted and ruined state of his electorate and its revenues, by the cruel oppressions and depredations committed by the French, and relying on the constant zeal of the House of Lords for his honour and true interest, the protestant religion, and the liberties of Europe, and for the safety and defence of his kingdoms and dominions, desires the concurrence and support of this House for making good his engagements with the King of Prussia,

Prussia, and carrying on the measures before-mentioned in such a manner as may most effectually prevent the dangerous designs of France and her confederates, and best conduce to the security of his Majesty's kingdoms, the protection of their commerce, and the preservation of his dominions in America.

G. R.

Order by the House of Lords, April 14, 1758.

ORDERED by the Lords spiritual and temporal, in Parliament assembled, that an humble address be presented to his Majesty, to return him the thanks of this House for his most gracious message, and for communicating to us the convention lately entered into between his Majesty and his good brother and ally the King of Prussia.

To express our grateful sense of his Majesty's wife and magnanimous resolution vigorously to prosecute this just war against France, in order to a safe and honourable peace; and of the measures taken by his Majesty for that purpose, by concluding the said convention, and by putting the army formed the last year in his electorate into motion, in order to act in concert with that great and indefatigable prince, the King of Prussia, for the good of the common cause.

To declare our unfeigned and deep concern and resentment for the miseries which his Majesty's electorate has suffered by the cruel oppressions and devastations of the French, and to assure him of our unshaken zeal for his honour and true interest, the protestant religion, the liberties of Europe, and the defence of his Majesty's kingdoms and dominions; and that his Majesty may depend on the cheerful concurrence and support of this House for making good his engagements with the King of Prussia, and for vigorously pursuing all such measures as may most effectually prevent the dangerous designs of France and her confederates, promote the security of his kingdoms and the commerce of his subjects, and the preservation of our colonies, rights, and possessions in America.

Effect of his Majesty's Answer, April 17, 1758.

THAT he thanks the House of Lords for the dutiful and affectionate expressions of their zeal for his Majesty's honour and true interest, the welfare of their country, and the defence of his kingdoms and dominions; and has the utmost reliance on their vigorous support.

Speech,

Speech of the Lords Commissioners, June 20, 1758.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

WE have received the King's commands upon this occasion to assure you, that his Majesty has the deepest sense of the loyalty and good affections demonstrated by his Parliament throughout the whole course of this session. The zeal which you have shewn for his Majesty's honour and real interest in all parts, your earnestness to surmount every difficulty, and your ardour to carry on the war with the utmost vigour, in order to a safe and honourable peace, must convince all the world that the ancient spirit of the British nation is still subsisting in its full force.

His Majesty has also commanded us to acquaint you that he has taken all such measures as have appeared to be most conducive to answer your public-spirited views and wishes. Through your assistance, and by the blessing of God upon the conduct and bravery of the combined army, his Majesty has been enabled not only to deliver his dominions in Germany from the oppressions and devastations of the French, but to push our advantages on this side of the Rhine.

His Majesty has cemented the union between him and his good brother the King of Prussia by new engagements, with which you have been already fully acquainted.

Our fleets and armies are now actually employed in such expeditions as appear likely to annoy the enemy in the most sensible manner; to promote the welfare and prosperity of these kingdoms, and particularly to preserve our rights and possessions in America, and to make France feel our just weight and real strength in those parts. His Majesty trusts in the Divine Providence, that they may be blessed with such success as will most effectually tend to these great and desirable ends.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

We are particularly commanded by the King to return you his thanks for those ample supplies which you have so freely and unanimously given. His Majesty grieves for the burthens of his people; but your readiness in supporting the war is the most probable means the sooner to deliver you from it. You may be assured that nothing will be wanting on his Majesty's part, to secure the most frugal management.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

His Majesty has directed us to repeat his recommendation to you to promote harmony and good agreement amongst his faithful

ful subjects, and to make the uprightness and purity of his intentions and measures rightly understood. Exert yourselves in maintaining the peace and good order of the country, by enforcing obedience to the laws and lawful authority, and by making the people sensible how much they hurt their own true interest by the contrary practice.

For their sakes the King has commanded us to press this upon you ; for their true interest and happiness are his Majesty's great and constant object.

Then a commission for proroguing the Parliament was read.

After which the Lord Keeper said,

My Lords and Gentlemen,

BY virtue of his Majesty's commission under the great seal, to us and other Lords directed, and now read, we do, in his Majesty's name, and in obedience to his commands, prorogue this Parliament to Thursday, the third day of August next, to be then here held ; and this Parliament is accordingly prorogued to Thursday, the third day of August next.

Speech of the Lords Commissioners, Nov. 25, 1758.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

IN pursuance of the authority given to us by his Majesty's commission under the great seal, amongst other things, to declare the causes of his holding this Parliament, his Majesty has been graciously pleased to direct us to assure you that he always receives the highest satisfaction in being able to lay before you any events that may promote the honour and interest of his kingdoms.

That in consequence of your advice, and enabled by that assistance which you unanimously gave him, his Majesty has exerted his endeavours to carry on the war in the most vigorous manner, in order to that desirable end always to be wished, a safe and honourable peace. It has pleased the Divine Providence to bless his Majesty's measures and arms with success in several parts, and to make our enemies feel that the strength of Great Britain is not to be provoked with impunity.

We have it also in command from his Majesty to acquaint you that the conquest of the strong fortress of Louisbourg, with the islands of Cape Breton and St. John ; the taking of Frontenac, of the highest importance to our operations in North America ; and the reduction of Senegal, cannot fail to bring
great

great distress upon the French commerce and colonies; and in proportion to procure great advantages to our own. That nation has also been made sensible, that whilst their forces are sent forth to invade and ravage the dominions of their neighbours, their own coasts are not inaccessible to his Majesty's fleets and armies. This they have experienced in the demolition of their works at Cherbourg, erected at a great expense, with a particular view to annoy this country; and in the loss of a great number of ships and vessels: but no treatment, however injurious to his Majesty, could tempt him to make retaliation on the innocent subjects of that crown.

In Germany his Majesty's good brother the King of Prussia and Prince Ferdinand of Brunswick have found full employment for the armies of France and her confederates; from which our operations, both by sea and in America, have derived the most evident advantage. Their successes, owing, under God, to their able conduct and the bravery of his Majesty's troops, and those of his allies, have been signal and glorious.

His Majesty has further commanded us to observe to you, that the common cause of liberty and independency is still making noble and vigorous efforts against the unnatural union formed to oppress it. That the commerce of his subjects, the source of our riches, has, by the vigilant protection received from his Majesty's fleet, flourished in a manner not to be paralleled during such troubles. In this state of things, his Majesty, in his wisdom, thinks it unnecessary to use many words to persuade you to bear up against all difficulties, effectually to stand by and defend his Majesty, vigorously to support the King of Prussia and the rest of his Majesty's allies, and to exert yourselves to reduce our enemies to equitable terms of accommodation.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

The uncommon extent of this war in different parts occasions it to be uncommonly expensive. This his Majesty has ordered us to declare unto you that he sincerely laments and feels deeply, for the burdens of his people. The several estimates are ordered to be laid before you, and his Majesty desires only such supplies as shall be requisite to push the war with advantage, and be adequate to the necessary services.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

His Majesty has in the last place, graciously commanded us to assure you, that he takes so much satisfaction in that good harmony which subsists among his faithful subjects, that it is
more

more proper for him now to thank you for it, than to repeat his exhortations to it. This union, necessary at all times, is more especially so in such critical conjunctures; and his Majesty doubts not but the good effects we have found from it will be the strongest motives to you to pursue it.

Address by the House of Lords to his Majesty, Nov. 24, 1758.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Lords spiritual and temporal, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to approach your throne with hearts full of that duty and affection to your sacred person and government which become the most faithful subjects to the best of kings.

That constant regard and attention which your Majesty has shewn to the honour and interest of your kingdoms, have filled our minds with the most grateful sentiments; and we see, with real satisfaction, those active and vigilant efforts which your Majesty, in your great wisdom, has made, to carry on the war with vigour, in order to the desirable end, which we all wish, a safe and honourable peace.

Justice and good policy required, that our enemies should feel how dangerous it is for them to provoke the spirit and strength of the British nation. We acknowledge, with becoming thankfulness, the goodness of the Divine Providence, in having crowned your Majesty's measures and arms with success in several parts; and we joyfully congratulate your Majesty on the conquest of the strong fortrefs of Loubourg, with the islands of Cape Breton and St. John, the taking of Frontenac, and the reduction of Senegal. The high importance of these successes is apparent in the reputation thereby acquired to your Majesty's arms, and in the distress they cannot fail to bring upon the French commerce and colonies, as well as in the happy effects procured to those of Great Britain.

We have seen, with the warmest emotions of resentment, the exorbitant devastations committed by the armies of France upon the dominions of your Majesty, and those of your allies in Germany. They must now have experienced how much, in consequence of their unbounded ambition to invade their neighbours, their own coasts are exposed in the demolition of their expensive works at Cherbourg, particularly intended for the annoyance of this country; and in the loss of so many ships and vessels, as well privateers as others, in their ports. At the same time, we cannot sufficiently admire your Majesty's magnanimity and moderation, in not having hitherto
retaliated,

retaliated on the innocent subjects of that crown the injurious treatment which you have received.

We have a just sense of the real advantages derived to the operations of Great Britain in particular, as well as to the common cause in general, from the wise conduct of the King of Prussia and Prince Ferdinand of Brunswick. Their great abilities, and the bravery of your Majesty's troops, and those of your allies, have been signally conspicuous, in the successes with which they have been attended, and must be acknowledged by all Europe.

Nothing can possibly be of greater national importance than the navigation and commerce of your subjects; and we return your Majesty our dutiful thanks for that protection and security which they have received from your royal care in the disposition of your fleet, to which their present flourishing condition is so much owing. The stagnation of our enemy's trade, and the taking and destroying so many of their capital ships of war, ought, in this view, to be reckoned amongst the most happy events.

Permit us to declare our grateful sense of that paternal tenderness which your Majesty has expressed for the burdens of your people. We receive from thence the strongest encouragement to adhere the more firmly to the cause of the protestant religion and public liberty against any unnatural union formed to oppress it. In this just cause we will, to our utmost, effectually stand by and defend your Majesty, support the King of Prussia and the rest of your allies, and vigorously exert ourselves to reduce our enemies to equitable terms of accommodation.

Our duty and fidelity to your Majesty, and our zeal for the protestant succession in your royal family, are uniform and unalterable; our prayers for the prolongation of your precious life and auspicious reign over us are sincere and fervent: and we beg leave to give your Majesty the strongest assurances, that nothing shall be wanting on our part to improve union and good harmony amongst all your subjects, for promoting and securing these interesting and essential objects.

His Majesty's Answer, Nov. 24, 1758.

My Lords,

I RETURN you my hearty thanks for this very dutiful and affectionate address. The satisfaction which you express in my measures, and the zeal you shew for my honour and support, the true interest of my kingdoms, and the assistance of

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my allies, as well as for pursuing the war with vigour, are highly acceptable to me : they cannot fail to produce the best effects in the present conjuncture.

Address to his Majesty by the House of Commons, Nov. 24, 1758.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons of Great Britain, in Parliament assembled, return your Majesty our most sincere and hearty thanks for the speech delivered by your Majesty's command to both Houses of Parliament.

We beg leave to congratulate your Majesty, with hearts full of the most unfeigned joy, upon the many signal successes with which it has pleased Divine Providence to bless your Majesty's measures and arms in several parts of the world ; particularly in the important conquest of the strong fortress of Louisbourg, with the islands of Cape Breton and St. John ; the taking of Frontenac, so essential to our operations in North America ; the reduction of the valuable settlements of Senegal ; the total demolition of the harbour and works of Cherbourg, erected at so great expense by the enemy, with a particular view to annoy this country ; and the destruction of the shipping and privateers in the ports of France.

Your Majesty's faithful Commons feel, with the highest satisfaction, how greatly these events redound to the honour and interests of your Majesty's kingdoms, to the upholding the reputation of the British arms, and to the maintaining and extending the glories of your Majesty's reign.

We have the most lively sense of these happy consequences, under God, of your Majesty's wisdom in the powerful exertion of the naval force of these kingdoms, to the annoyance and distress of the fleets, trade, and navigation of France, whilst the commerce of Great Britain flourishes in full protection and security ; and, at the same time, of your Majesty's justice and magnanimity in steadily supporting your allies, and in carrying on with vigour, in all parts, this arduous and necessary war.

It is with joy and admiration we see the glorious efforts made in Germany by your Majesty's great ally, the King of Prussia, and those made by Prince Ferdinand of Brunswick, seconded by the valour of your Majesty's troops and those of your allies ; and that full employment has thereby been given to all the armies of France and of her confederates ; from

which our operations, both by sea and in America, have received the most evident and important advantages.

Permit us to assure your Majesty, that your faithful Commons, justly animated in defence of the rights of your Majesty's crown, and of the protestant religion, and the common cause of liberty and independency, against the dangerous union which hath been formed to oppress them, will bear up against all difficulties, and exert themselves to the utmost, by granting to your Majesty such supplies as shall be necessary effectually to stand by and defend your Majesty, and vigorously to support the King of Prussia and the rest of your Majesty's allies; firmly relying on the wisdom and goodness of your Majesty that the same will be applied in the properest manner to push the war with advantage, and to reduce the enemy to equitable terms of a safe, honourable, and lasting peace.

We beg leave also to express our most grateful sense of the paternal satisfaction your Majesty takes in that good harmony which subsists amongst your faithful subjects, and of your Majesty's gracious acceptance of the universal zeal and affection of your people, which salutary union hath enabled us so effectually to exert our strength abroad, and hath preserved at home tranquillity, safety, and credit; and we trust that the continuance of the same truly national spirit will, by the blessing of God, be attended with the like happy effects for the future.

His Majesty's Answer, November 25, 1758.

I RETURN you my thanks for your dutiful and affectionate address, and for this fresh mark of your unanimous zeal in defence of me and my crown, and of my good brother the King of Prussia, and the rest of my allies.

You may depend on my constant endeavours for the preservation of my kingdoms, their trade and colonies, and for the liberties of Europe.

His Majesty's Message to the House of Lords, May 30, 1759.

GEORGE REX.

THE King has received advices, that the French court is making preparations with a design to invade this kingdom: and though his Majesty is persuaded, that by the united zeal and affection of his people any such attempt must, under the blessing of God, end in the destruction of those who shall be engaged therein; yet his Majesty apprehends, that he should

not act consistently with that paternal care and concern which he has always shewn for the safety and preservation of his people, if he omitted any means in his power which may be necessary for their defence: therefore, in pursuance of the late act of Parliament, his Majesty acquaints the House of Lords with his having received repeated intelligence of the actual preparations making in the French ports to invade this kingdom, and of the imminent danger of such invasion being attempted; to the end that his Majesty may (if he shall think proper) cause the militia, or such part thereof as shall be necessary, to be drawn out and embodied, and to march as occasion shall require.

G. R.

Order by the House of Lords, May 31, 1759.

ORDERED by the Lords spiritual and temporal, in Parliament assembled, that an humble address be presented to his Majesty, to return him the thanks of this House for his most gracious message, and for acquainting us with the intelligence he has received of the preparations making by France to invade this kingdom. To declare our utmost indignation and abhorrence of such a design; and that we will, with united duty, zeal, and affection, at the hazard of our lives and fortunes, stand by and defend his Majesty against any such presumptuous and desperate attempt. To express the just sense we have of his Majesty's goodness to his people, in omitting no means in his power which may tend to their defence; and in his intention to call out and employ the militia, if it shall be found necessary, for that purpose; and to give his Majesty the strongest assurances, that we will with vigour and steadiness support his Majesty in taking the most effectual measures to defeat the designs of his enemies; to preserve and secure his sacred person and government, the protestant succession in his royal family, and the religion, laws, and liberties, of these kingdoms.

Effect of his Majesty's Answer, May 31, 1759.

THAT he thanks the House of Lords for the repeated assurances of their unalterable zeal, duty, and affection, to his Majesty on this occasion; and has the utmost confidence in their vigorous support.

*Speech of the Lords Commissioners delivered by the Lord Keeper,
June 2, 1759.*

My Lords and Gentlemen,

THE King has commanded us to put an end to this Session of Parliament; and, at the same time, to assure you, that as your conduct, during the course of it, has highly deserved his royal approbation, so his Majesty now returns you his hearty thanks for it.

At the opening of this Session his Majesty exhorted you to bear up against all difficulties; effectually to stand by and defend his Majesty; and vigorously to support the King of Prussia, and the rest of his allies.

The King has commanded us to acquaint you, that his hopes of surmounting those difficulties were founded on the wisdom, zeal, and affection, of so good a Parliament: and that you have fully answered his expectations. You have considered the war in all its parts; and notwithstanding the long continuance of it, through the obstinacy of our enemies, have made such provision for the many different operations, as ought to convince the powers engaged against us, that it will be for their interest, as well as for the ease and relief of all Europe, to come to equitable and honourable terms of accommodation.

By your assistance, the combined army in Germany has been completed; powerful squadrons, as well as great numbers of land forces, are employed in America, in order to maintain the just rights and possessions of his Majesty and his people, and to annoy the enemy in the most sensible manner in those parts: and, as France is now making considerable preparations in her ports, his Majesty has taken care to put his fleet at home in the best condition, both of strength and situation, to guard against and repel any attempts that may be meditated against his kingdoms.

The King's measures have all been directed to assert the honour of his crown, to preserve the essential interests of his faithful subjects, and to support the cause of the protestant religion, and public liberty: his Majesty therefore trusts, that the uprightness of his intentions will draw down the blessings of heaven upon his endeavours.

We have it also in command from his Majesty to let you know, that he hopes the provisions you have made to prevent and correct the excesses of the privateers will be effectual to that desirable end. The King has had it much at heart; for though his Majesty is sensible of the utility of that service, when under proper regulations, he is determined to do his utmost to

prevent any injuries or hardships being done to the subjects of neutral powers, as far as may be practicable, and consistent with his Majesty's just right to hinder the trade of his enemies from being collusively and fraudulently covered.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

We are commanded to assure you, that when his Majesty considers the large supplies which you have so unanimously given, he feels himself under the strongest obligations, not only to thank you for them, but also to applaud the firmness and vigor with which you have acted; as well as your prudence in judging that, notwithstanding the present burdens, the making ample provision for carrying on the war is the most probable means to bring it to an honourable and happy conclusion. No attention will be wanting on his Majesty's part, for the faithful application of what you have granted.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

His Majesty has been graciously pleased to order us to add, that he has nothing more to desire of you, but that you would carry down the same good dispositions, and propagate them in your several countries, which you have shewn in your proceedings during your sitting here.

After which the Lord Keeper said;

My Lords and Gentlemen,

IT is his Majesty's royal will and pleasure, that this Parliament be prorogued to Thursday, the twenty-sixth day of July next, to be then here held: and this Parliament is accordingly prorogued to Thursday, the twenty-sixth day of July next.

Speech of the Lords Commissioners, Nov. 13, 1759.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

IN pursuance of the authority given to us by his Majesty's commission under the great seal, amongst other things, to declare the cause of his holding this Parliament, his Majesty has been graciously pleased to direct us to assure you, that he esteems himself particularly happy, in being able to call you together in a situation of affairs so glorious and advantageous to his crown and kingdoms.

His Majesty sees, and devoutly adores, the hand of Providence in the many and signal successes, both by sea and land, with
which

which his arms have been blessed in the course of the last summer; and, at the same time, his Majesty reflects, with much satisfaction, on the confidence which you placed in him, by making such ample provisions, and intrusting him with such extensive powers, for carrying on a war, which the defence of our valuable rights and possessions, and the preservation of the navigation and commerce of his Majesty's people, had made both just and necessary.

We have it also in command from his Majesty to acquaint you, that the happy progress of our successes, from the taking of Goree, on the coast of Africa, to the conquest of so many important places in America, with the defeat of the French army in Canada, and the reduction of their capital city of Quebec, effected with so much honour to the courage and conduct of his Majesty's officers, both at sea and land, and with so great lustre to his intrepid forces, together with the important success obtained by his Majesty's fleet off Cape Lagos, and the effectual blocking up, for many months, the principal part of the navy of France in their own ports, are events, which must have filled the hearts of all his Majesty's faithful subjects, as well as his own, with the sincerest joy; and, his Majesty trusts, will convince you, that there has been no want of vigilance or vigour, on his part, in exerting those means, which you, with so much prudence and public-spirited zeal, put into his Majesty's hands:

That our advantages have extended farther, and the Divine blessing has favoured us in the East Indies, where the dangerous designs of his Majesty's enemies have miscarried, and that valuable branch of our trade has received great benefit and protection:

That the memorable victory gained over the French near Minden has long made a deep impression on the minds of his Majesty's people; and that, if the crisis in which that battle was fought, the superior number of the enemy, and the great and able conduct of his Majesty's general, Prince Ferdinand of Brunswick, are considered, that action must be the subject of lasting admiration and thankfulness.

That if any thing could fill the breasts of his Majesty's good subjects with still farther degrees of exultation, it is the distinguished and unbroken valour of his Majesty's troops, owned and applauded by those whom they overcame. The glory they have gained is not merely their own; but, in a national view, is one of the most important circumstances of our success, as it must be a striking admonition to our enemies, with whom they have to contend.

That his Majesty's good brother and ally, the King of Prussia, attacked and surrounded by so many considerable powers, has, by his magnanimity and abilities, and the bravery of his troops, been able, in a surprising manner, to prevent the mischiefs concerted with such united force against him.

His Majesty has farther commanded us to observe to you, that, as his Majesty entered into this war, not from views of ambition, so he does not wish to continue it from motives of resentment. The desire of his Majesty's heart is, to see a stop put to the effusion of Christian blood; whenever such terms of peace can be established, as shall be just and honourable for his Majesty and his allies, and by procuring such advantages, as, from the successes of his Majesty's arms, may, in reason and equity, be expected shall bring along with them full security for the future, his Majesty, will rejoice to see the repose of Europe restored on such solid and durable foundations; and his faithful subjects, to whose liberal support and unflinching firmness his Majesty owes so much, happy in the enjoyment of the blessings of peace and tranquillity: but, in order to this great and desirable end, his Majesty is confident you will agree with him, that it is necessary to make ample provision for carrying on the war, in all parts, with the utmost vigour.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

We are commanded by his Majesty to assure you, that the great supplies which were given the last session have been faithfully employed for the purposes for which they were granted; but the uncommon extent of this war, and the various services necessary to be provided for, in order to secure success to his Majesty's measures, have unavoidably occasioned extraordinary expenses, an account of which shall be laid before you.

His Majesty has also ordered the proper estimates for the service of the ensuing year to be prepared and laid before you; and his Majesty desires you to grant him such supplies, as shall be necessary to sustain and press, with effect, all our extensive operations against the enemy; and, at the same time, by the blessing of God, to repel and frustrate their daring designs against his Majesty's kingdoms.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

His Majesty has, in the last place, been graciously pleased to command us to repeat to you the assurances of the high satisfaction his Majesty takes in that union and good harmony, which is so conspicuous amongst his faithful subjects; happy in seeing it continued and confirmed; and to observe to you, that experience has shewn, how much we all owe to it; and that

that nothing else can effectually secure the true happiness of his people.

Address of the Lords to his Majesty, Nov. 14, 1759.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Lords spiritual and temporal, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to approach your Majesty with the warmest sentiments of duty, and with hearts full of the most sincere joy, to congratulate your Majesty upon the great and signal successes with which it has pleased Almighty God to prosper your Majesty's unwearied endeavours for the safety, welfare, and honour of your people.

We acknowledge, with all thankfulness and humility, the goodness of the Divine Providence, in the many glorious events which will for ever distinguish this memorable year.

We entirely rely upon your Majesty's constant regard and attention to the true interests of your subjects, from the full experience which we have had of the wise and effectual use which your Majesty has made of all the extensive powers with which the confidence of Parliament has, from time to time, strengthened your Majesty's hands. But we, must, in a particular manner, gratefully acknowledge the extraordinary vigilance, vigor, and wisdom of your Majesty's measures, in the steady and successful direction of so many various operations in different parts of the world.

The happy progress of your Majesty's arms from the taking of Goree on the coast of Africa, and some of the French sugar islands in the West Indies, to the acquisition of many important places in America, and the defeat of the enemy's army in Canada, with the reduction of the capital city of Quebec, against the greatest disadvantages of situation and numbers, has exceeded the most sanguine hopes of your Majesty's faithful subjects: nor has the good effect of your Majesty's prudent measures been less conspicuous, in the disappointment of the dangerous designs of your enemies in the East Indies; in the effectual blocking up the principal part of the French fleet in their own ports; and the important advantage gained off Cape Lagos; while your Majesty's care has preserved your own kingdoms from any hostile attempt, and has protected the navigation and commerce of your own subjects in almost as full a security as during the time of profound peace.

The memorable victory gained over the French near Minden cannot but make a deep and lasting impression upon every British mind.

Whether

Whether we consider the great and able conduct of your Majesty's general, Prince Ferdinand of Brunswick, the valour of your Majesty's troops, the inequality of force, or the imminent peril of that important crisis; the happy deliverance wrought by that action, and the glorious consequences of it, must ever be the subject of our praise and thankfulness.

It is matter of just exultation to us, that the British officers and private men, both by sea and land, have given so many shining instances of personal bravery and military conduct. Their example will animate others; their reputation is national strength, and will convince the enemy what they have to apprehend from a brave and gallant people, fired with zeal in defence of their King and country.

We beg leave to express the high sense we have of the magnanimity and transcendent abilities of the King of Prussia; which have, in a surprising manner, prevented the mischievous effects of the united force of so many considerable powers, by which he has been attacked and surrounded on all sides; against whom he has bore up and supported himself by the fortitude and inexhaustible resources of his own mind, and the courage and discipline of his troops.

Permit us to declare, how highly we applaud your Majesty's moderation and true greatness of mind in restraining every impulse of resentment, and desiring to prevent the farther effusion of Christian blood, by putting an end to the war (into which your Majesty entered, not from views of ambition, but solely for the defence of the valuable rights, possessions, and commercial interests of your kingdoms) as soon as such terms of peace can be established, as shall be just and honourable for your Majesty and your allies; and by procuring such advantages, as, from the successes of your Majesty's arms, may, in reason and equity, be expected, shall bring with them full security for the future.

In order to the attainment of this great and desirable end, we beg leave to assure your Majesty, of our utmost readiness to concur in the effectual support of such farther measures, as your Majesty, in your great wisdom, shall judge necessary or expedient, for carrying on the war with vigour in all parts, and for disappointing and repelling any desperate attempts which may be made upon these kingdoms.

Our prayers are sincere and fervent for the prolongation of your Majesty's most precious life; our endeavours shall never be wanting to continue and confirm that affection to your Majesty's sacred person, that confidence in your government, that zeal for the Protestant succession in your royal family, and that union and harmony so conspicuous among all your subjects,
which

which is so essential to their own security and happiness, and to the frustrating the designs of your Majesty's enemies.

His Majesty's Answer, November 14, 1759.

My Lords,

I THANK you for this very dutiful and affectionate address. The satisfaction you so unanimously express in the successes with which it has pleased God to bless my arms by sea and land, and the assurances you give me of your further support, are extremely agreeable to me; and cannot fail to produce the best effects in the present conjuncture.

Address by the House of Commons to his Majesty, Nov. 14, 1759.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons of Great Britain, in Parliament assembled, return your Majesty our most humble thanks for the speech delivered by your Majesty's command to both Houses of Parliament.

Permit us, Sir, with the sincerest zeal and duty, to congratulate your Majesty on the glorious and uninterrupted series of success and victory which hath attended your Majesty's arms during the whole course of this distinguished and memorable year.

With the deepest reverence, and most devout gratitude to Divine Providence, we acknowledge that manifest blessing and protection which God hath vouchsafed to bestow upon your Majesty's councils and arms, and offer up our most ardent vows and prayers for its continuance.

Your Majesty's faithful Commons will not attempt to enumerate all the advantages and glories derived to your Majesty and these kingdoms from the various successes which have been extended into every quarter of the world; but we humbly beg leave to assure your Majesty, that our hearts are filled with the most grateful and lively sense of the happy consequences, which, under God, are owing to the wisdom, vigilance, and vigour, of your Majesty's measures in the prosecution of this just and necessary war; particularly,

The taking of the Island of Goree, and the extension of our commerce on the coast of Africa, the defeat of the French fleet in the East Indies, and the repulse of their land forces before
Madras

Madras, whereby the dangerous designs of our enemies there have miscarried, and protection hath been given to our trade and settlements in those countries; the valuable conquest of Guadeloupe and Marie Galante in the West Indies; the reduction of so many forts and places in North America, completed and crowned by that glorious and decisive victory over the French army in Canada, and the surrender of their capital city of Quebec, effected with so much honour to the courage and conduct of your Majesty's officers by sea and land, and with much lustre to your intrepid forces; the important success of your Majesty's fleet, in pursuing, taking, and destroying, a considerable part of the French Squadron off Cape Lagos, and the blocking up, for so many months, the rest of the navy of France in their own ports, which hath greatly augmented the distress of our enemies, whilst it has protected and secured our commerce and navigation.

Nor can we ever forget that critical, signal, and memorable, defeat of the French army near Minden, so justly the subject of lasting admiration and thankfulness, if we consider the superior numbers of the enemy, the great and able conduct of his serene highness Prince Ferdinand of Brunswick, or the unconquerable valour of your Majesty's troops.

When we reflect upon this continued train of successes, part of which would have been sufficient to have signalized this long and active campaign, it is impossible for us not to express the highest satisfaction at the great ability, resolution, and perfect harmony, so conspicuous in your Majesty's admirals and generals throughout the execution of your commands, and at the ardent courage which hath manifested itself in the behaviour of the officers and forces both by sea and land, with such personal and national glory: nothing but this spirit could have enabled them to surmount every difficulty arising from the superior number and advantageous situation of the enemy; and we are fully persuaded, that the like resolution, ardour and zeal, excited and animated by those best incentives, your Majesty's gracious acceptance and royal approbation of their eminent services, followed by the warmest and most universal applause of their country, will continue to give terror to the enemies, and confidence to the allies, of Great Britain.

We view with the highest admiration the magnanimity and unexampled efforts of that great prince, your Majesty's ally, the King of Prussia, whose consummate genius, unwearied activity, and unshaken constancy of mind, seconded by the bravery of his troops, have been able, in every situation, to supply resources sufficient to resist the united forces of so many and such formidable powers.

Your

Your Majesty's faithful Commons feel with due gratitude your paternal care and concern for the peace and happiness of your people; and cannot too much admire that true greatness of mind which disposes your heart, in the midst of prosperities, to wish that a stop may be put to the effusion of Christian blood, and that public tranquillity may be restored.

We entirely rely on your Majesty's known wisdom and firmness, that this desirable object, whenever it shall be attained, will be on such terms as shall be just and honourable for your Majesty and your allies, and shall bring along with them full security for the future on solid and durable foundations, by procuring such advantages as may in reason and equity be expected from the successes of our arms, and which will fix in the minds of a grateful people the lasting remembrance of this happy era, and of the benefits derived to them under your Majesty's glorious and auspicious government.

In order to effect this great end, we are thoroughly sensible that ample provision must be made for carrying on the war in all parts with the utmost vigour; and we assure your Majesty, that we will cheerfully grant your Majesty such supplies as shall be found necessary to sustain and press with effect all our extensive operations against the enemy, and at the same time, by the blessing of God, to repel and frustrate their daring designs against these kingdoms; convinced, from the long experience we have had of the wisdom and goodness of your Majesty, that they will be applied in such manner as will best answer these great purposes.

We cannot sufficiently testify our grateful sense of the high satisfaction which your Majesty has been pleased to express in that perfect union and good harmony which so happily subsists amongst your faithful subjects, the salutary effects of which have been most conspicuous; and the pleasing experience we have had of them, joined to your Majesty's paternal recommendation, must be the most powerful motives to enforce the continuance of those dispositions, so essential to the full exertion of our utmost strength, as well as to the tranquillity, good order, and happiness, of your Majesty's people.

*Speech of the Lords Commissioners delivered by the Lord Keeper,
May 22, 1760.*

My Lords and Gentlemen,

WE have received the King's commands to put an end to this Session of Parliament; and, upon this occasion, to assure you, that his Majesty looks back, with entire satisfaction,

tion, on your proceedings during the course of it. The duty and affection which you have expressed for his person and government, and the zeal and unanimity which you have shewn in maintaining the true interest of your country, can only be equalled by what his Majesty has formerly experienced from this Parliament.

His Majesty has commanded us to acquaint you, that it would have given him the most sensible pleasure to have been able to communicate to you, that his sincere endeavours to promote a general pacification had met with more suitable returns before this time. His Majesty, in conjunction with his good brother and ally, the King of Prussia, chose to give their enemies proofs of this equitable disposition in the midst of a series of glorious victories; an opportunity the most proper to do it with dignity, and to manifest to all Europe the purity and moderation of his views. After such a conduct, his Majesty has the comfort to reflect, that the further continuance of the calamities of war cannot be imputed to him, or his allies; and trusts in the blessing of heaven upon the justice of his arms, and upon those ample means, which your zeal, in so good a cause, has wisely put into his hands, that his future successes, in carrying on the war, will not fall short of the past; and that in the event, the public tranquillity will be restored on solid and durable foundations.

We are further commanded to acquaint you, that his Majesty has taken the most effectual care to augment the combined army in Germany; and, at the same time, to keep up such a force at home, as may frustrate any attempts of the enemy to invade these kingdoms, which have hitherto ended only in their own confusion.

The royal navy was never in a more flourishing and respectable condition; and the signal victory obtained last winter over the French fleet, on their own coasts, as it has added lustre to his Majesty's arms, has given fresh spirit to his maritime forces, and reduced the naval strength of France to a very low ebb.

His Majesty has disposed his squadrons in such a manner, as may best conduce to the annoyance of his enemies; to the defence of his own dominions both in Europe and America; and to the preserving and pursuing his conquests, as well as the protection of the trade of his subjects, which he has extremely at heart.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

Nothing could relieve his Majesty's royal mind, under the anxiety which he feels for the burdens of his faithful subjects,
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but the public-spirited cheerfulness with which you have granted him such large supplies, and his conviction that they are necessary for the security and essential interests of his kingdoms. The King has enjoined us to return you his hearty thanks for them ; and to assure you of their due application to the purposes for which they have been given.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

We have nothing further in command from his Majesty, but to recommend to you the continuance and improvement of that union and good harmony, which he has observed with so much pleasure, and from which he has derived such important effects. Make it your study to promote these desirable objects ; to support the King's government, and the good order of your respective countries ; and to consult your own real happiness and prosperity. This behaviour, his Majesty graciously assures you, will be the most acceptable demonstration of your duty to him.

After which the Lord Keeper said,

My Lords and Gentlemen,

IT is his Majesty's royal will and pleasure, that this Parliament be prorogued to Thursday, the seventeenth day of July next, to be then here held : and this Parliament is accordingly prorogued to Thursday, the seventeenth day of July next.

His Majesty GEORGE the THIRD's First Speech, Nov. 18, 1760.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

THE just concern, which I have felt in my own breast, on the sudden death of the late King, my royal grandfather, makes me not doubt, but you must all have been deeply affected with so severe a loss. The present critical and difficult conjuncture has made this loss the more sensible, as he was the great support of that system, by which alone the liberties of Europe, and the weight and influence of these kingdoms, can be preserved ; and gave life to the measures conducive to those important ends.

I need not tell you the addition of weight which immediately falls upon me, in being called to the government of this free and powerful country at such a time, and under such circumstances. My consolation is in the uprightness of my own intentions, your faithful and united assistance, and the blessing
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of heaven upon our joint endeavours, which I devoutly implore.

Born and educated in this country, I glory in the name of Briton ; and the peculiar happiness of my life will ever consist in promoting the welfare of a people, whose loyalty and warm affection to me I consider as the greatest and most permanent security of my throne ; and I doubt not, but their steadiness in those principles will equal the firmness of my invariable resolution to adhere to, and strengthen, this excellent constitution in church and state ; and to maintain the toleration inviolable. The civil and religious rights of my loving subjects are equally dear to me with the most valuable prerogatives of my crown ; And, as the surest foundation of the whole, and the best means to draw down the Divine favour on my reign, it is my fixed purpose to countenance and encourage the practice of true religion and virtue.

I reflect, with pleasure, on the successes with which the British arms have been prospered this last summer. The total reduction of the vast province of Canada, with the city of Montreal, is of the most interesting consequence, and must be as heavy a blow to my enemies, as it is a conquest glorious to us ; the more glorious, because effected almost without effusion of blood, and with that humanity, which makes an amiable part of the character of this nation.

Our advantages gained in the East Indies have been signal ; and must greatly diminish the strength and trade of France in those parts, as well as procure the most solid benefits to the commerce and wealth of my subjects.

In Germany, where the whole French force has been employed, the combined army, under the wise and able conduct of my general, Prince Ferdinand of Brunswick, has not only stopt their progress, but has gained advantage over them, notwithstanding their boasted superiority, and their not having hitherto come to a general engagement.

My good brother and ally, the King of Prussia, although surrounded with numerous armies of enemies, has, with a magnanimity and perseverance almost beyond example, not only withstood their various attacks, but has obtained very considerable victories over them.

Of these events I shall say no more at this time, because the nature of the war in those parts has kept the campaign there still depending.

As my navy is the principal article of our natural strength, it gives me much satisfaction to receive it in such good condition ; whilst the fleet of France is weakened to such a degree, that the small remains of it have continued blocked up by my ships

ships in their own ports; at the same time the French trade is reduced to the lowest ebb; and with joy of heart I see the commerce of my kingdoms, that great source of our riches, and fixed object of my never-failing care and protection, flourishing to an extent unknown in any former war.

The valour and intrepidity of my officers and forces, both at sea and land, have been distinguished so much to the glory of this nation, that I should be wanting in justice to them, if I did not acknowledge it. This is a merit which I shall constantly encourage and reward; and I take this occasion to declare, that the zealous and useful service of the militia, in the present arduous conjuncture, is very acceptable to me.

In this state I have found things at my accession to the throne of my ancestors; happy in viewing the prosperous part of it; happier still should I have been, had I found my kingdoms, whose true interest I have entirely at heart, in full peace: but, since the ambition, injurious encroachments, and dangerous designs of my enemies, render the war both just and necessary, and the generous overture, made last winter, towards a congress for a pacification, has not yet produced a suitable return, I am determined, with your cheerful and powerful assistance, to prosecute this war with vigour, in order to that desirable object, a safe and honourable peace. For this purpose it is absolutely incumbent upon us to be early prepared; and I rely upon your zeal and hearty concurrence to support the King of Prussia, and the rest of my allies, and to make ample provision for carrying on the war, as the only means to bring our enemies to equitable terms of accommodation.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

The greatest uneasiness which I feel at this time, is in considering the uncommon burdens necessarily brought upon my faithful subjects. I desire only such supplies, as shall be requisite to prosecute the war with advantage, be adequate to the necessary services, and that they may be provided for in the most sure and effectual manner. You may depend upon the faithful and punctual application of what shall be granted. I have ordered the proper estimates for the ensuing year to be laid before you; and also an account of the extraordinary expenses, which, from the nature of the different and remote operations, have been unavoidably incurred.

It is with peculiar reluctance that I am obliged, at such a time, to mention any thing which personally regards myself: but, as the grant of the greatest part of the civil list revenues is now determined, I trust in your duty and affection to me,

to make the proper provision for supporting my civil government with honour and dignity. On my part, you may be assured of a regular and becoming œconomy.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

The eyes of all Europe are upon you. From your resolutions the protestant interest hopes for protection, as well as all our friends for the preservation of their independency; and our enemies fear the final disappointment of their ambitious and destructive views. Let these hopes and fears be confirmed and augmented by the vigour, unanimity, and dispatch of your proceedings.

In this expectation I am the more encouraged by a pleasing circumstance, which I look upon as one of the most auspicious omens of my reign: that happy extinction of divisions, and that union and good harmony which continue to prevail amongst my subjects, afford me the most agreeable prospect. The natural disposition and wish of my heart are, to cement and promote them; and I promise myself, that nothing will arise, on your part, to interrupt or disturb a situation so essential to the true and lasting felicity of this great people. "

Address by the House of Lords to his Majesty, November 19, 1760.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Lords spiritual and temporal, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to return your Majesty our humble thanks for your most gracious speech from the throne.

On this first occasion of approaching your royal person, permit us to express our unfeigned sorrow for the severe and afflicting loss, which not only this nation, but all Europe, has sustained, in the sudden death of our late excellent and most gracious sovereign, your Majesty's illustrious grandfather. The long experience which we had of his royal virtues, the benignity of his government, and his uniform care of our laws and liberties, not interrupted in any one instance during the course of so many years, demand from us the most grateful acknowledgments; and will make his memory as dear to us, as the height and splendor to which he had raised the greatness of these kingdoms, will render it glorious to all posterity.

Such a loss could only be repaired by your Majesty. And at the same time that we condole with your Majesty on this melancholy event, we beg leave to offer you our most sincere congratulations on your happy accession to the throne. As
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your Majesty is the rightful and immediate inheritor of his crown, you are so of those virtues with which he adorned it: and which promise a continuation of the same blessings to these kingdoms. It fills our minds with inexpressible joy, to see the pleasing hopes we had conceived from your many princely and amiable endowments, and the early demonstrations of your affection to this country, so fully verified in your first declarations to your Parliament.

We are penetrated with the condescending and endearing manner in which your Majesty has expressed your satisfaction, in having received your birth and education amongst us. What a lustre does it cast upon the name of Briton, when you, Sir, are pleased to esteem it amongst your glories!

The several paternal assurances which your Majesty has vouchsafed to give us, speak your resolution to be the common father of your people. No stronger proof can be given of it, than by adopting this undeniable maxim, that their love is the best security of your throne. From this principle will naturally flow the strictest adherence to our excellent constitution in church and state; and the maintenance of that surest cement of the protestant interest in these kingdoms, the toleration: and we cannot but applaud your Majesty's wisdom and piety, in making the encouragement of true religion and virtue one of the great foundations of your government.

We adore the goodness of Providence, in the signal successes with which we have been blessed this last summer. The reduction of the extensive province of Canada, with the city of Montreal, is an event of the highest importance in every view; and it is no small addition to the glory resulting from it, to have shewn, that where the British arms carry conquest, they carry protection.

We look upon the great advantages gained in the East Indies, as highly beneficial to the trade of these kingdoms. And we have the justest sense of the happy consequences derived to the operations of Great Britain in particular, as well as to the common cause in general, from the wise conduct of Prince Ferdinand of Brunswick. After what the enemy had before experienced from his abilities, we are not surpris'd that they should not come to a decisive engagement.

The magnanimity and perseverance of the King of Prussia will not only be the admiration of the present age, but of posterity; and the noble stand made, and the victories obtained by that Prince, must be the strongest motives to the powers engaged against him, to concur in the proper measures to restore the tranquillity of Europe.

The judicious sentiments which your Majesty has declared to us, concerning your royal navy, and the commerce of your subjects, are truly worthy of a British monarch, resolved to improve our natural strength, and most valuable resources. The weakening of the French force by sea to so great a degree, and the low state to which their trade is reduced, we esteem amongst the most solid benefits accruing to this nation from the expensive efforts made this war.

Your Majesty's regard for public merit shines forth in the generous notice which you are pleased to take of the valour and intrepidity of your officers and forces by sea and land. They are equally conducive to the safety and glory of our country; and your gracious acceptance of the service of the militia, as being useful in the present arduous conjuncture, will be a great encouragement to their zeal.

At the same time that we thankfully acknowledge your Majesty's tender consideration for your people, in your wishes to have found your kingdoms in full peace, we cannot but admire your wisdom in the comprehensive sense you have expressed of the causes and necessity of the present war. We are convinced that your Majesty's humane disposition makes you lament the calamities of it; whilst your greatness of mind has determined you to pursue it with vigour, in order to a safe and honourable peace, so desirable, not only to your own subjects, but to all Europe. Animated by that duty which we owe your Majesty, and by our zeal for the honour and interest of these kingdoms, we give your Majesty the strongest assurances, that we will cheerfully support you in prosecuting the war; assist the King of Prussia, and the rest of your allies; and heartily concur in all such measures as shall be necessary for the defence of your Majesty and your dominions, and for the other national and important ends which you have so fully laid before us.

The anxiety which your Majesty has so early declared for the uncommon burdens of your people, demands our sincerest thanks. Your tender concern will be an inducement to bear them the more cheerfully, and a pledge to your faithful subjects, that they shall be relieved from them as soon as the public security will in sound policy admit.

These many and eminent proofs of your Majesty's goodness, and of your fixed attention to our happiness, call upon us for the warmest returns of duty, gratitude, and affection to your sacred person and government. Our loyalty and fidelity are inviolable. Our resolution to maintain your undoubted title to this imperial crown, and the protestant succession in your illustrious house, at the hazard of our lives and fortunes, is never to
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be shaken. Happy shall we be in every instance whereby we may be able to contribute to the glory, prosperity, and ease of your reign. Your Majesty's prudence, and the benevolence of your royal heart, have pointed out to us the most agreeable means of promoting these ends, by so strongly inculcating the continuance of that union and good harmony which subsist amongst your people. In doing this, your Majesty hath set an inviting and powerful example to all your subjects, which we are determined to follow, by performing every thing on our part to strengthen and improve this happy situation.

His Majesty's Answer, November 19, 1760.

My Lords,

I RETURN you my hearty thanks for this very loyal and dutiful address. Nothing can be more agreeable to me, than your unanimous concurrence in the several weighty matters which I laid before you. The assurances you give me of your fidelity and affection to my person and government, and of your zeal for the true interest of your country, and for the support of my allies, afford me the highest satisfaction, and will have the best effect both at home and abroad. It shall be my constant endeavour to answer the expectations which you have formed of my reign.

Address to his Majesty by the House of Commons, Nov. 20, 1760.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons of Great Britain, in Parliament assembled, approach your royal presence to express the deepest sense of the great and severe loss which your Majesty and these kingdoms have sustained by the death of your Majesty's royal grandfather, our late most excellent sovereign, the memory of whose just and prosperous reign will be held in reverence by latest posterity.

We beg leave to congratulate your Majesty on your happy accession to the throne, the only consideration that can alleviate our grief for such a loss; the knowledge of your Majesty's royal virtues, wisdom, and firmness, opens to your faithful subjects the fairest prospect for their future happiness at home, and for the continuance of that weight and influence of your Majesty's crown abroad, so essentially necessary in this arduous and critical

tical conjuncture, for the preservation of that system, upon which the liberties of Europe depend.

We return your Majesty our humble thanks for your most gracious speech from the throne, and acknowledge with the liveliest sentiments of duty, gratitude, and exultation of mind, those most affecting and animating words of our most gracious Sovereign, that, born and educated in this country, he glories in the name of Briton; and we offer to your Majesty the full tribute of our hearts for the warm expressions of your truly royal and tender affection towards your people. We venerate and confide in those sacred assurances of your Majesty's firm and invariable resolution, to adhere to and strengthen this excellent constitution in church and state, to maintain the toleration inviolate, and to protect your faithful subjects in that greatest of human blessings, the secure enjoyment of their religious and civil rights.

Permit us to congratulate your Majesty on the various successes which, under the protection of God, have attended the British arms during the last summer, particularly in the reduction of the city of Montreal, and the entire province of Canada, a conquest equally important and glorious, achieved with intrepidity, and closed with humanity, the genuine attributes of that British spirit, which under the benign auspices of your Majesty will, we trust, continue, by the Divine assistance, to give additional lustre to the arms of Great Britain.

This valuable and extensive acquisition, joined to the signal advantages gained in the East Indies; the flourishing state of our commerce; the respectable condition of your Majesty's navy, by which the remains of the enemy's fleet continue blocked up in their harbours, whilst their trade is almost annihilated; are considerations which fill our hearts with the most pleasing hopes that your Majesty will be thereby enabled to prosecute this just and necessary war, to that great and desirable object of establishing, in conjunction with your allies, a safe, honourable, and lasting peace.

We see with the greatest pleasure, that the progress of the French armies in Germany, notwithstanding their superiority of numbers, has been stopped, and to the honour of your Majesty's arms, their attempts hitherto baffled by the wise and able conduct of his serene highness Prince Ferdinand of Brunswick.

When we consider the stupendous efforts made in every campaign, by your Majesty's great ally the King of Prussia, the defeat of the Austrians in Silesia, and that recent and glorious victory obtained over the army commanded by Marshal Daun, we cannot sufficiently admire the invincible constancy of mind,
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and inexhaustible resources of genius, displayed by that magnanimous monarch, to whom the most dangerous and difficult situations have only administered fresh occasions for glory.

Our most dutiful acknowledgments are due to your Majesty, for the mention which you have so graciously made of the distinguished valour and intrepidity of your officers and forces at sea and land, and for the declaration of your Majesty's constant resolution to encourage and reward such merit; and we return our most humble thanks to your Majesty for your favourable acceptance of the zealous and useful service of the militia in the present arduous conjuncture.

We assure your Majesty, that your faithful Commons, thoroughly sensible of this important crisis, and desirous, with the Divine assistance, to render your Majesty's reign successful and glorious in war, happy and honourable in peace, (the natural return of a grateful people to a gracious and affectionate sovereign,) will concur in such measures as shall be requisite for the vigorous and effectual prosecution of the war; and that we will cheerfully and speedily grant such supplies as shall be found necessary for that purpose, and for the support of the King of Prussia, and the rest of your Majesty's allies; firmly relying on your Majesty's wisdom, goodness, and justice, that they will be applied in such a manner as will most effectually answer the ends for which they are granted, and with the utmost œconomy that the nature of such great and extensive operations will allow; and that we will make such an adequate provision for your Majesty's civil government, as may be sufficient to maintain the honour and dignity of your crown with all proper and becoming lustre.

Your Majesty's faithful Commons approach your royal person with hearts penetrated by the warmest and liveliest sense of your unbounded tenderness and concern for the welfare of your people, and rejoicing at the high satisfaction your Majesty takes in the union which so universally prevails throughout your kingdom; a deep sense of that national strength and prosperity visibly derived from this salutary source, and, above all, your Majesty's approbation of that happy union, and the natural disposition and wish of your royal heart to cement and promote it, are the strongest incentives to concord, and the surest pledge of its duration; the fixed resolution which your Majesty has declared, to countenance and encourage the practice of true religion and virtue, will, we doubt not, prove the best means of drawing down the favour of God upon a dutiful and united nation; and we shall never cease devoutly to offer up our ardent vows to the Divine Providence, that, as a recompence for these royal virtues, your Majesty may reign in the hearts of a free and

happy people; and that they, excited by your Majesty's benevolent care to discharge your royal function, and animated by gratitude for the enjoyment of so many blessings, may make the due return by a constant obedience to your laws, and by the most steady attachment and loyalty to your person and government.

His Majesty's Answer, November 22, 1760.

Gentlemen,

I RETURN you my cordial thanks for this most dutiful and affectionate address, and for your warm expressions of fidelity to my person, and attention to the honour and dignity of my crown.

The unanimous assurance that you will make effectual and speedy provision for the vigorous prosecution of the war, and for the support of my allies, yield me the truest satisfaction, and will, I trust, prove the happy means of reducing the enemy to the terms of a just and honourable peace: with such zeal and harmony among my people, I have only to implore the continuance of the Divine blessings on their generous efforts, and on my ardent endeavours for the permanent felicity of my loving subjects.

Message from his Majesty to the House of Commons, Jan. 9, 1761.

GEORGE REX.

HIS Majesty being sensible of the zeal and vigour with which his faithful subjects in North America have exerted themselves in defence of his Majesty's just rights and possessions, recommends it to this House to take the same into consideration, and to enable his Majesty to give them a proper compensation for the expenses incurred by the respective provinces, in the levying, cloathing, and pay of the troops raised by the same, according as the active vigour and strenuous efforts of the respective provinces shall justly appear to merit.

G. R.

Message from his Majesty to the House of Commons, Jan. 9, 1761.

GEORGE REX.

HIS Majesty being desirous that a proper strength may be employed in the settlements of the united company of merchants of England trading to the East Indies, recommends to this

this House, to enable his Majesty to assist the said company in defraying the expense of a military force in the East Indies, to be maintained by them, in lieu of the battalion commanded by Colonel Adlercron, withdrawn from thence, and now returned to Ireland.

G. R.

His Majesty's most gracious Speech, March 3, 1761.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

UPON granting new commissions to the judges, the present state of their office fell naturally under consideration.

In consequence of the act, passed in the reign of my late glorious predecessor King William the Third, for settling the succession to the crown in my family, their commissions have been made during their good behaviour; but, notwithstanding that wise provision, their offices have determined upon the demise of the crown, or at the expiration of six months afterwards, in every instance of that nature which has happened.

I look upon the independency and uprightness of the judges of the land as essential to the impartial administration of justice; as one of the best securities to the rights and liberties of my loving subjects; and as most conducive to the honour of the crown: and I come now to recommend this interesting object to the consideration of Parliament, in order that such farther provision may be made for securing the judges in the enjoyment of their offices, during their good behaviour, notwithstanding any such demise, as shall be most expedient.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I must desire of you, in particular, that I may be enabled to grant and establish upon the judges such salaries as I shall think proper, so as to be absolutely secured to them during the continuance of their commissions.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I have nothing to add but my thanks for the great unanimity and application with which you have hitherto carried on the public business; and to desire you to proceed with the same good disposition, and with such dispatch, that this session may be soon brought to a happy conclusion.

Address

Address to his Majesty by the House of Lords, March 4, 1761.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Lords spiritual and temporal, in Parliament assembled, return your Majesty our humble thanks for your most gracious speech from the throne.

The tender concern which your Majesty is pleased to express for the rights and liberties of your people, and for the impartial administration of justice, fills our minds with the sincerest gratitude. We look upon your wise and just sentiments, concerning the independency and uprightness of the judges of the land, as the strongest proof of what your Majesty has formerly declared to us, in words the most affectionate that ever came from the throne, that the civil and religious rights of your subjects are equally dear to you with the most valuable of your royal prerogatives. At the same time, nothing can be a nobler instance of your true greatness of mind, than to esteem these principles, as they truly are, the most conducive to the honour of the crown.

We will not fail to take into our consideration this important object of the continuance of the judges, notwithstanding any demise of the crown; and to do every thing on our part to make your Majesty's public-spirited intentions effectual: happy in having an opportunity to do this by your Majesty's free and voluntary recommendation; and forming the most ardent vows that the event, wherein the effect of such a provision will be experienced, may, by the goodness of Providence to these kingdoms, be removed for a long course of years.

Permit us, on this occasion, to renew to your Majesty the most unfeigned assurances of our inviolable duty and affection; and to express our thankful acknowledgments for your gracious approbation of our proceedings hitherto. Nothing can equal our zeal for your Majesty's support; nor shall any thing be wanting that depends upon us to bring this session to a speedy and happy conclusion, answerable to your Majesty's just expectations.

His Majesty's Answer, March 4, 1761.

My Lords,

I THANK you for this very dutiful, grateful, and unanimous address. I am very glad that what I have laid before you gives you so much satisfaction.

Message

*Message from his Majesty to the House of Commons, March 4,
1761.*

GEORGE REX.

HIS Majesty, relying on the known zeal and affection of his faithful Commons, and considering that, in this critical conjuncture, emergencies may arise which may be of the utmost importance, and be attended with the most pernicious consequences, if proper means should not immediately be applied to prevent or defeat them, is desirous that this House will enable him to defray any extraordinary expenses of the war incurred, or to be incurred, for the service of the year 1761, and to take all such measures as may be necessary to disappoint or defeat any enterprizes or designs of his enemies, and as exigencies of affairs may require.

G. R.

His Majesty's most gracious Speech, March 19, 1761.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I CANNOT put an end to this session without declaring my entire satisfaction in your proceedings during the course of it. The zeal you have shewn for the honour of my crown, as well as for my true interest, and that of your country, which are ever the same, is the clearest demonstration of that duty and affection to my person and government, of which you so unanimously assured me at your first meeting. Nothing could so much add to the pleasure which these considerations afford me, as that I am now able to acquaint you with the great progress made of late by the combined army in Germany, under the command of Prince Ferdinand of Brunswick. I formerly told you, that the nature of the war in those parts had kept the campaign there still depending; and it now appears, to the surprize of my enemies, that the superior ability and indefatigable activity of my general, and the spirit and ardour of my officers and troops, have greatly profited of this perseverance, notwithstanding all the difficulties arising from the season.

By your assistance I have taken the best care to recruit that army in an effectual manner; and have made such a disposition of my fleet for the next summer, as may most advantageously defend my kingdoms, protect the commerce of my subjects, maintain and extend our possessions and acquisitions, and annoy the enemy.

As in all my measures, I have nothing in view but the security and felicity of my dominions, the support of my allies, and
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the restoring of the public tranquillity, I trust in the Divine Providence to give a happy issue to our farther operations.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I cannot sufficiently thank you for your unanimity and dispatch in providing for the expenses of my civil government, and the honour and dignity of the crown: and I think myself as much obliged to you, for the prudent use which, in framing that provision, you have made of my consent to leave my own hereditary revenues to such disposition of Parliament, as might best conduce to the utility and satisfaction of the public, as for what more immediately concerns myself.

In making my acknowledgments for the large and extensive supplies which you have granted me this session, I am at a loss whether most to applaud your cheerfulness in giving, or your wisdom in proportioning them to the extraordinary occasions of the public, notwithstanding those uncommon burdens which I heartily regret. No care shall be wanting on my part to see them duly applied to the national ends for which you intended them.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

The expiration of this Parliament now drawing very near, I will forthwith give the necessary orders for calling a new one. But I cannot take my leave of you without returning my thanks for the many eminent proofs you have given of your fidelity and affection to my family and government, and of your zeal for this happy and excellent constitution.

During this Parliament, the flame of war was kindled by the injurious encroachments and usurpations of our enemies; and therefore it became just and necessary on our part. In the prosecution of it, you have given such support to my royal grandfather and myself, and such assistance to our allies, as have manifested your public-spirited concern for the honour of the nation, and the maintenance of its undoubted rights and possessions, and been attended with glorious successes, and great acquisitions, in various parts of the world, particularly in the entire reduction of Canada, a conquest of the utmost importance to the security of our colonies in North America, and to the extension of the commerce and navigation of my subjects.

May God Almighty grant continuance to these successes! the use which I propose to make of them, is to secure and promote the welfare of my kingdoms, and to carry on the war with vigour, in order to procure to them the blessings of peace on safe and honourable conditions for me and my allies, to which I have been always ready to hearken.

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Firm in these resolutions, I do with entire confidence rely on the good dispositions of my faithful subjects in the choice of their representatives; and I make no doubt but they will thereby demonstrate the sincerity of those assurances which have been so cordially and universally given me, in the loyal, affectionate, and unanimous addresses of my people.

And afterwards the Lord Chancellor, by his Majesty's command, said,

My Lords and Gentlemen,

IT is his Majesty's royal will and pleasure, that this Parliament be prorogued to Tuesday, the seventh day of April next, to be then here held: and this Parliament is accordingly prorogued to Tuesday, the seventh day of April next.

Speech by the Speaker of the House of Commons, Nov. 6, 1761.

Most gracious Sovereign,

YOUR Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons of Great Britain, in Parliament assembled, have, in obedience to your Majesty's commands, and according to their ancient right, proceeded to the election of one of their members to be their Speaker; whom they now present to your Majesty: but, Sir, with the utmost concern must I acquaint your Majesty, that out of so many amongst them, eminently qualified for this important station, their choice has fallen upon me.

Under the apprehensions of my mind, arising from a consciousness of my own inability to discharge, as I ought, so great a trust, I have this satisfaction, that I can now be an humble suitor to your Majesty, that you would give your faithful Commons an opportunity of rectifying this, the only inadvertent step which they can ever take, and be graciously pleased to direct them to present some other to your Majesty, whom they may not hereafter be sorry to have chosen, nor your Majesty to have approved.

I do not presume, Sir, to make this request to your Majesty on my own account; it is for the sake of your Majesty's service, the sake of your faithful Commons, and what will ever be most dear to you, Sir, the interests of your whole people, that those arduous and urgent affairs, which have induced your Majesty to call this Parliament, may receive no prejudice through my defects; nor the zealous endeavours of your faithful Commons
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for the service of your Majesty and their country, be in any wise obstructed through this their partiality to me.

Then the Lord Chancellor, after receiving directions from his Majesty, said,

Sir JOHN CUST,

I AM commanded by his Majesty to acquaint you, that although your own modesty may prompt you to decline so important an office as that into which you are elected, yet he hath so good an opinion of your integrity, diligence, and sufficiency for executing the highest trust, that his Majesty is perfectly satisfied with the choice the House of Commons have made, and doth allow and confirm you to be their Speaker.

Then Mr. Speaker said,

IT is my duty, Sir, to submit myself to your Majesty's pleasure, and no longer to decline that service which your Majesty is graciously pleased to think me capable of undertaking.

Permit me, Sir, with my most dutiful acknowledgments to your Majesty, for this mark of your royal grace and favour, to assure your Majesty of my utmost endeavours faithfully to discharge this trust to the best of my small abilities; and if I fail not in uprightness of heart and zeal for your Majesty's and the public service, I entirely rely upon your Majesty's goodness to pardon all my failings and involuntary errors, at least, that they may not be imputed to your faithful Commons. That they, Sir, may be the better enabled to perform their duty to your Majesty and their country, I do, in their name and on their behalf, by humble petition to your Majesty, lay claim to all their ancient rights and privileges; particularly, that their persons, their servants, and estates, may be free from arrests, suits, and all molestation: that they may have liberty of speech, for the better management of their debates; access to your royal person on all seasonable occasions, and that their proceedings may receive from your Majesty the most favourable interpretation.

Then the Lord Chancellor, after receiving further directions from his Majesty, said,

Mr. Speaker,

THE King hath the greatest confidence in the duty and affection of this House of Commons to his person and government, and in the wisdom, temper, and prudence which will

accompany all their proceedings; and his Majesty doth readily and willingly grant and allow them all their privileges, in as full and ample a manner as they have at any time been granted and allowed by any of his royal predecessors. As to that part of your request which personally relates to yourself, that you may enter into this weighty office, with proper confidence and satisfaction, I am commanded by his Majesty to acquaint you, that he will make the most favourable construction of all your words and actions.

His Majesty's most gracious Speech, November 6, 1761.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

AT the opening of the first Parliament, summoned and elected under my authority, I with pleasure take notice of an event which has made me completely happy, and given universal joy to my loving subjects. My marriage with a princess eminently distinguished by every virtue and amiable endowment, whilst it affords me all possible domestic comfort, cannot but highly contribute to the happiness of my kingdoms, which has been, and always shall be, my first object in every action of my life.

It has been my earnest wish that this first period of my reign might be marked with another felicity, the restoring of the blessings of peace to my people, and putting an end to the calamities of war, under which so great a part of Europe suffers. But though overtures were made to me and my good brother and ally the King of Prussia, by the several belligerent powers, in order to a general pacification, for which purpose a congress was appointed, and propositions were made to me by France for a particular peace with that crown, which were followed by an actual negotiation; yet that congress hath not hitherto taken place, and the negotiation with France is entirely broken off.

The sincerity of my disposition to effectuate this good work has been manifested in the progress of it, and I have the consolation to reflect that the continuance of the war and the further effusion of christian blood, to which it was the desire of my heart to put a stop, cannot with justice be imputed to me.

Our military operations have been in no degree suspended or delayed; and it has pleased God to grant us farther important successes by the conquests of the islands of Belleisle and Dominica, and by the reduction of Pondicherry, which hath in a manner annihilated the French power in the East Indies. In other parts, where the enemy's numbers were greatly superior, their

their principal designs and projects have been generally disappointed by a conduct which does the highest honour to the distinguished capacity of my general, Prince Ferdinand of Brunswick, and by the valour of my troops. The magnanimity and ability of the King of Prussia have eminently appeared in resisting such numerous armies, and surmounting so great difficulties.

In this situation I am glad to have an opportunity of receiving the truest information of the sense of my people, by a new choice of their representatives. I am fully persuaded you will agree with me in opinion that the steady exertion of our most vigorous efforts, in every part where the enemy may still be attacked with advantage, is the only means that can be productive of such a peace as may with reason be expected from our successes. It is therefore my fixed resolution, with your concurrence and support, to carry on the war in the most effectual manner for the interest and advantage of my kingdoms; and to maintain, to the utmost of my power, the good faith and honour of my crown, by adhering firmly to the engagements entered into with my allies. In this I will persevere until my enemies, moved by their own losses and distresses, and touched with the miseries of so many nations, shall yield to the equitable conditions of an honourable peace; in which case, as well as in the prosecution of the war, I do assure you no consideration whatever shall make me depart from the true interests of these my kingdoms, and the honour and dignity of my crown.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I am heartily sorry that the necessity of large supplies appears so clearly from what has already been mentioned. The proper estimates for the services of the ensuing year shall be laid before you, and I desire you to grant me such supplies as may enable me to prosecute the war with vigour, and as your own welfare and security in the present critical conjuncture require, that we may happily put the last hand to this great work. Whatsoever you give shall be duly and faithfully applied.

I dare say your affectionate regard for me and the Queen makes you go before me in what I am next to mention, the making an adequate and honourable provision for her support, in case she should survive me. This is what not only her royal dignity, but her own merit calls for; and I earnestly recommend it to your consideration.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I have such a confidence in the zeal and good affections of this Parliament, that I think it quite superfluous to use any exhortations

exhortations to excite you to a right conduct. I will only add, that there never was a situation in which unanimity, firmness, and dispatch were more necessary for the safety, honour, and true interest of Great Britain.

Address to his Majesty by the House of Lords, Nov. 7, 1761.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Lords spiritual and temporal, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to return your Majesty our humble thanks for your most gracious speech from the throne.

It is impossible to approach your royal presence at this time without making our dutifulness to your Majesty of our most joyful congratulations on the auspicious occasion of your royal nuptials. We want words to defer how warmly we are affected with an event so highly interesting to your Majesty and to all your faithful subjects, or to express our gratitude to your Majesty for giving us a Queen, who, while she completes your happiness, promises, by every virtue and amiable accomplishment, the greatest addition to that of your people. May Heaven grant the longest duration to this felicity! And may it be attended with a numerous progeny, to transmit the great examples of their illustrious parents, and perpetuate the blessings of your reign to future ages.

We thankfully acknowledge your Majesty's goodness in communicating to us that overtures had been made by the several belligerent powers, in order to a general pacification; and by France for a particular peace between your Majesty and that crown; whereupon a negotiation had followed, which is since entirely broke off. No other proof could be wanting to us, that the continuance of the war and the effusion of christian blood, cannot, with any shadow of justice, be imputed to your Majesty, besides the known generosity and benevolence of your own innate disposition.

Your royal wisdom has appeared in nothing more than in not suffering your military operations to be suspended or delayed: and we beg leave to congratulate your Majesty on the present signal successes of your arms. Besides the important conquests with which they have been blessed, your enemies have, in other parts, been made once more to feel that superior numbers cannot avail them against the superior capacity and conduct of your consummate general, Prince Ferdinand of Brunswick, and the unshaken bravery of your officers and troops. We cannot see without admiration, those repeated proofs of magnanimity and

ability which your great ally, the King of Prussia, though surrounded with so many difficulties, has given to the world.

Your Majesty's sentiments cannot fail to have the greatest weight with us, because we are sure that they proceed upon wise principles, founded in the love of your people. It is therefore from conviction that we declare our humble concurrence in your opinion, that it is necessary steadily to exert our most vigorous efforts in every part where the enemy may still be attacked with advantage.

We beg your Majesty to accept the strongest and most affectionate assurances, that we will with the greatest zeal and ardour, and at the hazard of every thing that is dear to us, stand by and support your Majesty in prosecuting the war in the most effectual manner for the interest of your kingdoms, and in performing to the utmost of your power, your engagements to your allies; nothing being more evident than that this is the only method to procure such equitable and honourable conditions of peace, as may with reason be expected from our successes.

We should be greatly wanting to ourselves, as well as to your Majesty, if we did not testify our particular thanks for your paternal goodness, in having so expressly declared that both in carrying on the war and in making peace, no consideration whatsoever shall make you depart from the true interests of these your kingdoms, and the honour of your crown.

This resolution, so truly worthy of a British monarch, and so engaging to all your royal subjects, calls for adequate returns on our part. Penetrated with the liveliest sense of your unbounded tenderness and concern for our welfare, we do from the bottom of our hearts assure your Majesty, that we will with the utmost duty and zeal correspond to that confidence which your Majesty reposes in us, being fully persuaded of the necessity of unanimity, firmness, and dispatch, in the present critical situation, and animated thereto by the gracious admonition of the best of kings.

His Majesty's Answer, November 7, 1761.

My Lords,

I THANK you for this very dutiful and loyal address. The joy which you express upon my marriage, and your affectionate regard for the Queen, give me the highest satisfaction. I make no doubt but your ready concurrence in my sentiments, and the becoming zeal which you have so unanimously declared for carrying on the war with vigour, will have a good effect
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both upon our friends and enemies, and strengthen my hands to pursue such measures as may be most conducive to the true interetts of my kingdoms.

Address by the House of Commons to his Majesty, Nov. 14, 1761.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons of Great Britain, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to return your Majesty the most humble and hearty thanks of this House for your most gracious speech from the throne.

Permit us at the same time to offer to your Majesty our warmest congratulations on the joyful and auspicious event of your royal nuptials, with a prince's descended from an illustrious protestant line, distinguished by the most eminent graces and endowments, and worthy to be the partner of your royal throne, by possessing every virtue that can adorn it.

We beg leave also to express our just sense of that affectionate regard which your Majesty has shewn for your people, by consulting, on this most important and interelling occasion, as on every other, their happiness, and that of their posterity; and we assure your Majesty that with hearts full of gratitude for this signal instance of your royal attention to the welfare of your subjects, and thoroughly sensible of the exalted merit of your illustrious consort, your faithful Commons will not fail to make such honourable and ample provision as may enable her to support her royal dignity with proper lustre, in case she shall survive your Majesty, for the long continuance of whose life we shall never cease to offer up to the Divine Providence our most ardent vows.

Allow us, Sir, to return our sincere and humble thanks to your Majesty for your tender concern for the prosperity of your people, in wishing to restore to them the blessings of peace; and to declare that we cannot too much admire that humanity so becoming your royal breast, which amidst the successes of your own kingdoms feels for the calamities of other nations.

We are fully persuaded that these beneficent dispositions which induced your Majesty to consent to the appointment of a congress for a general pacification, and to enter into a negotiation with France for a particular peace, could not have failed of the desired effect, if the enemy, influenced by the same motives, had shewn the same good intentions, and would have

complied with such conditions as were requisite for the accomplishment of that salutary work.

We do most gratefully acknowledge your Majesty's vigilance and firmness, in not suffering the hopes or expectations of peace to produce the least suspense or relaxation in the exertion of your arms, and we congratulate your Majesty on those happy successes which, under the good providence of God, we must ascribe to the wisdom and vigour of your Majesty's measures; to which we owe the reduction of Dominica, the conquest of Belleisle, achieved with so much reputation to the British arms, and the destruction of the enemy's power in the East Indies, by the acquisition of Pondicherry, their last remaining settlement or any strength in those countries.

The wise and able conduct of his serene highness Prince Ferdinand of Brunswick, whereby he hath successively defeated the projects of the enemy, and hath prevented their making that progress which, from their superior numbers, they expected, together with that gracious approbation which your Majesty hath been pleased to express of the valour of your troops, cannot but give the highest satisfaction to your faithful Commons, and they see with just admiration, the repeated proofs in every campaign, of that unshaken resolution, and of those admirable negotiations which alone could have enabled your Majesty's generals, the King of Prussia, to resist the numerous forces of his enemies.

We beg leave to assure your Majesty of our entire concurrence and support in the most effectual prosecution of the war, for the interest and advantage of these kingdoms, and in maintaining, to the utmost of our power, the good faith and honour of your Majesty's crown, and the engagements entered into with your allies; and that we are truly sensible that the constant care and attention of your Majesty to pursue the most vigorous measures in every part where a successful impression can still be made upon the enemy, are the only means to attain that desirable object, a glorious and lasting peace.

We receive with the deepest gratitude that most endearing expression of your Majesty's unbending goodness and affection towards this your native country, in the solemn declaration which your Majesty has been pleased to make, that as well in the prosecution of the war as in the conclusion of the peace, no consideration whatever shall induce you to depart from the true interests of these your kingdoms, and from the honour and dignity of your crown.

Your Majesty may be assured that your faithful Commons will cheerfully grant such supplies as the nature and extent of
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the several services shall be found to require, firmly relying on your Majesty's wisdom and justice, that they will be applied with the strictest œconomy, and in such a manner as may most effectually answer the great ends for which they shall be granted.

We do with great truth assure your Majesty that it is our most earnest desire, that this next Parliament, convened by your royal authority, may, by their conduct, give your Majesty a happy proof of the zeal, the loyalty, and the affection of your people.

Sensible of the difficult crisis in which we are assembled, we are determined to concur with the greatest firmness and unanimity, in whatever may contribute to the public welfare, may tend to defeat the views and expectations of our enemies, and may convince the world that there are no difficulties which your Majesty's wisdom and perseverance, with the assistance of your Parliament, cannot surmount.

His Majesty's Answer, November 17, 1761.

Gentlemen;

I RETURN you my hearty thanks for this very affectionate and loyal address. The early proofs of your most cordial attachment to me and my family upon the occasion of my marriage, and the particular regard and attention which you express for the Queen, in a matter that so nearly concerns her, cannot but give me the most sensible satisfaction. The assurances of your steady and vigorous support must add the greatest weight to my endeavours for the public good, and will be the surest means of bringing the war in which we are engaged, to such a conclusion as is the constant object of my wishes, and will most effectually provide for the honour, happiness, and security of my kingdoms.

The humble Address of the Archbishop, Bishops, and Clergy of the Province of Canterbury, in Convocation assembled, presented to his Majesty on Wednesday, the eighteenth Day of November, 1761.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most loyal and dutiful subjects, the Archbishop, Bishops, and Clergy of the province of Canterbury, in Convocation assembled, embrace with the greatest pleasure this first opportunity of congratulating your Majesty, in a body, on your accession to the throne of your

royal grandfather, whose memory will ever be honoured by us, and on your auspicious marriage to a protestant princess of your illustrious extraction, most amiable accomplishments, and excellent dispositions.

We return your Majesty our sincerest thanks for your early promise, that you will make it the business of your line to preserve and strengthen the constitution in church and state. To the whole of that constitution we are zealously attached, and our attachment comprehends the steadiest fidelity to our Majesty, the deepest reverence for the laws of our country, the tenderest regard to the rights of private judgment, and the truest value for rational liberty, in religious as well as in civil concerns.

Permit us also to express our most cordial acknowledgments of your Majesty's goodness, in publishing immediately a proclamation for the encouragement of piety and virtue, and for preventing and punishing profaneness and immorality. Your Majesty's constant good example proves how seriously you have at heart these inestimable purposes, and this declared resolution of discountenancing wickedness in all persons, of whatsoever degree or quality, and distinguishing the pious and virtuous by marks of your royal favour, must, as occasions of acting upon it occur to your Majesty, contribute powerfully to produce that general reformation in your dominions which is so greatly wanted.

For we humbly represent to your Majesty, as we are bound, that the mildness of our laws, and the lenity used in the execution of them, are blessings which licentiousness hath grievously abused: that intemperance, debauchery, and irreligious discourse abound; that the worship of God is lamentably neglected; that the Lord's day is openly disregarded and profaned; and that books, pamphlets, and papers, are vended with impunity, the plain design of which is to make the gospel of Christ an object of scorn, and promote such impious notions and flagitious behaviour as tend to the destruction of human society.

These are enormities for which conscience cannot be pleaded, and which the wisdom of all states hath judged it necessary to restrain. We firmly trust that your Majesty's authority will be exerted, as far as it is requisite, against them; and likewise against the unwearied endeavours which the emissaries of the church of Rome, presuming on the indulgence exercised with a truly christian spirit towards the members of their communion, most ungratefully employ to infuse into the minds of your Majesty's subjects, falsehoods inconsistent with the fundamental principles of the British government.

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We solemnly assure your Majesty, that we will each of us in our several stations attentively perform whatever is incumbent on us in relation to these matters ; that we will faithfully oppose every dangerous error, diligently teach every needful truth, and shew ourselves in all things patterns of good works. We will also, whenever your Majesty shall think it a fit season, be ready with much thankfulness and caution against giving offence, to consider jointly of such provisions as may conduce to the better direction of our brethren of the clergy, and the greater edification of the flocks committed to our care.

In the mean time, we heartily bless God for the many singular advantages that we enjoy under your Majesty's ratherly protection : and we earnestly pray him to give such further success to your arms, as may secure a beneficial and lasting peace ; to grant you a long and prosperous reign over a people to be worthy of it, and to crown you with all domestic as well as public happiness in this world, and with eternal felicity in the next.

His Majesty's Answer, November 18, 1761.

My Lords, and the rest of the Clergy,

I THANK you for this very dutiful and loyal address. The affectionate expressions which it contains of your regard towards the Queen, and your zeal for the support and honour of my government, are highly acceptable to me. You may rely upon my constant resolution to maintain the excellent constitution of the church of England as by law established, to discourage vice and immorality ; and to enforce, by every method in my power, all due obedience to the precepts of our most holy religion.

Speech by the Speaker of the House of Commons, Dec. 2, 1761.

Most gracious Sovereign,

IT has been the first care of your faithful Commons, to take into their consideration what your Majesty most affectionately recommended to them from the throne, namely, the enabling your Majesty to make that provision for the Queen, in case she shall survive you, to which her royal dignity, and her own merit, give her the justest claim.

On such an occasion I should ill discharge the trust which has lately been reposed in me by the Commons, and most graciously confirmed by your Majesty, if I omitted to assure you, that they feel the warmest sentiments of gratitude to your Ma-

jeſſy, who have made their happineſs, and that of their poſterity, your principal object: of this your Majeſty has given abundant proof, by your royal nuptials with a princeſs whoſe illuſtrious anceſtors were early aſſertors of the civil and religious liberties of mankind; and, in conſequence, cloſely attached to your Majeſty's family; a princeſs, whom the moſt diſtinguiſhed virtues, and amiable endowments, pointed out to your Majeſty's choice, and made the partner of the brighteſt crown in Europe.

I cannot but eſteem it a very ſingular honour and happineſs to myſelf, that the firſt bill, which by command of the Commons I preſent to your Majeſty, is a bill in which they have, with the greateſt zeal and unanimity, endeavoured to juſtify their duty to your Majeſty and your royal comfort; and that it is no leſs acceptable to your Majeſty than to your Commons, and all whom they represent.

But, Sir, though they have paſſed it with the utmoſt expedition which their terms allow, yet it is matter of real ſatisfaction to them, that they can entertain the moſt pleaſing and well-founded hope that it will be a long courſe of years before it can have any effect; and the domeſtic happineſs of the Queen is ſo inſeparably connected with the public intereſts of your people, that, on behalf of her Majeſty, as well as of every ſubject of your realm, your faithful Commons will never ceaſe to implore the Almighty, that he will be pleaſed to diſtinguiſh this nation by his Divine favour and protection, in prolonging your Majeſty's happy reign beyond an ordinary date; and that, if ever the provision of this bill ſhall become effectual, it may be lamented only by their poſterity.

The bill, Sir, which I have in my hand, is intituled,

“ An Act for enabling his Majeſty to make Provision for ſupporting the royal dignity of the Queen, in caſe ſhe ſhall ſurvive his Majeſty.”

To which your Commons, with all humility, beſeech your Majeſty's royal aſſent.

His Majeſty's moſt gracious Speech, Jan. 19, 1762.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I HAVE ſo often aſſured you of my ſincere diſpoſition to put an end to the calamities of the war, and to reſtore the public tranquillity on ſolid and laſting foundations, that no impartial perſon, either at home or abroad, can ſuſpect me of unneceſſarily kindling a new war in Europe. But it is with concern I acquaint you, that ſince your reſels I have found myſelf indiſpenſably

penfably obliged to declare war againſt Spain. The *cauſes* are ſet forth in my public declaration on this occaſion; and therefore I ſhall not detain you with a repetition of them. My own conduct ſince my acceſſion to the throne, as well as that of the late King, my royal grandfather, towards Spain, has been ſo full of good-will and friendſhip, ſo averſe to the laying hold of ſeveral juſt grounds of complaint, which might have been alledged, and ſo attentive to the advantages of the Catholic King and his family, that it was matter of the greateſt ſurpriſe to me, to find that engagements had, in this conjuncture, been entered into between that crown and France; and a treaty made to unite all the branches of the houſe of Bourbon, in the moſt ambitious and dangerous deſigns againſt the commerce and independency of the reſt of Europe, and particularly of my kingdom.

Whatever ſchemes may be endeavoured to be put upon theſe injurious proceedings of the court of Madrid, I have nothing to reproach myſelf with; and, though I have left nothing untried that could have prevented this rupture, I have thought it neceſſary to prepare againſt every event.

I therefore rely on the Divine bleſſing on the juſtice of my cauſe, the zealous and powerful aſſiſtance of my faithful ſubjects, and the concurrence of my allies, who muſt find themſelves involved in the pernicious and extenſive projects of my enemies.

I leave theſe conſiderations with you, full of the juſteſt confidence, that the honour of my crown, and the intereſts of my kingdom, are ſafe in your hands.

Adreſs by the Houſe of Lords, Jan. 20, 1762.

Moſt gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Maſteſty's moſt dutiful and loyal ſubjects, the Lords ſpiritual and temporal, in Parliament aſſembled, beg leave to return your Maſteſty our humble thanks for your moſt gracious ſpeech from the throne.

We have had ſo many proofs of your Maſteſty's paternal love of your people, and of the goodneſs and true greatneſs which inſpire your royal breaſt, that we are fully convinced of your Maſteſty's ſincere deſire to put an end to the calamities of war; and that your Maſteſty has left nothing untried, in order to avoid, if poſſible, the neceſſity of extending it. We cannot therefore but expreſs the utmoſt ſurpriſe and indignation at the injurious and unprovoked proceedings of the court of Spain, which have rendered ineffectual your Maſteſty's ſalutary endeavours;

vours; and particularly at the late engagements entered into between that crown and France, so inconsistent with their solemn and repeated professions of amity, so contrary to the treaties actually subsisting between your Majesty and the Catholic King; and so prejudicial, not only to the true interest of these kingdoms, but also of the Spanish nation itself.

With hearts full of gratitude we acknowledge your Majesty's wisdom and vigilance for the security of your people, in taking effectual care, at the same time that the preventing of a rupture was the great object of your Majesty's attention, to be prepared, however, and ready for every event.

Animated with the warmest zeal for the defence of the honour of your Majesty's crown, and the undoubted rights of your people, though free from any view of encroaching on those of other nations, we have a lively sense of the dangers which threaten your Majesty's kingdoms, as well as the commerce and independency of the rest of Europe, from the ambitious and extensive designs of the confederacy now formed between the several branches of the house of Bourbon; and we beseech your Majesty to accept the strongest and most affectionate assurances, that we will, with the utmost ardour, assist and support your Majesty in repelling and suppressing the pernicious effects so greatly to be apprehended from this union; and that we will readily concur in such measures as may enable your Majesty to prosecute the war with vigour, until just and honourable conditions of peace can be obtained.

His Majesty's Answer, January 20, 1762.

My Lords,

I RETURN you my hearty thanks for this address. The affectionate assurances you give me of your support and assistance in the vigorous prosecution of this necessary war, are very agreeable to me, and cannot fail of producing the most salutary effects.

Message from his Majesty to the House of Commons, May 11, 1762.

GEORGE REX.

HIS Majesty, relying on the known zeal and affection of his faithful Commons, and considering that in this conjuncture emergencies may arise which may be of the utmost importance, and be attended with the most pernicious consequences, if proper means should not immediately be applied

to prevent or defeat them : and his Majesty also taking into his most serious consideration the imminent danger with which the kingdom of Portugal, an ancient and natural ally of his crown, is threatened by the powers now in open war with his Majesty, and of what importance the preservation of that kingdom is to the commercial interests of this country, is desirous that this House will enable him to defray any extraordinary expenses of the war incurred, or to be incurred, for the service of the year 1762 ; and to take all such measures as may be necessary to disappoint or defeat any enterprizes or designs of his enemies, against his Majesty, or his allies ; and as the exigency of affairs may require.

G. R.

His Majesty's most gracious Speech, June 2, 1762.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

THE public business for which you were assembled being now happily concluded, the advanced season of the year calls upon me to put an end to this session of Parliament ; which I cannot do without expressing the highest approbation of the zeal, unanimity, and dispatch which have so signally appeared in the course of your proceedings.

At the opening of this session I informed you, that it had been my earnest wish to restore the blessings of peace to my people ; but that it was my fixed resolution, with your concurrence and support, to carry on the war in the most effectual manner, till that desirable object could be obtained upon equitable and honourable conditions. My sentiments, in both these respects, continue invariably the same, and I have the satisfaction to find them confirmed by the unanimous voice of my Parliament.

The declaration which motives of humanity have engaged the Emperor of Russia to make to all the courts in that alliance, and the great and happy change in the situation of my ally, the King of Prussia, give us just reason to hope that the other belligerent powers may be induced to entertain the same pacific dispositions.

On the other hand, our rupture with Spain, notwithstanding my utmost endeavours to prevent it, and the violent and unprovoked attack with which the dominions of my ancient ally, the King of Portugal, are threatened, sufficiently evince the wisdom and necessity of that firmness and resolution in my Parliament, which have enabled me to continue our military operations without the least interruption or delay ; and considerably to augment my fleets and armies in those parts in
which

which our enemies can be most sensibly distressed. The signal success of my arms in the conquest of Martineco, and the acquisition of many other valuable settlements in the West Indies, have, under the blessing of God, been the happy consequences of these measures. I trust in the Divine Providence that they will be attended with still farther advantages until the powers at war with us shall be disposed to such terms of accommodation as the dignity and just rights of my crown, the future security and commercial interests of my subjects, will permit me to accept.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

When I consider the ample supplies which you have granted, I cannot but lament the heavy burdens which the necessities of the public service have obliged you to impose upon my people. From this consideration I have endeavoured, in every instance, to restrain my demands within as narrow bounds as the difficulties in which I found myself involved would allow. From the same motive my utmost care shall be employed to exert the most exact œconomy, consistent with the safety of my kingdoms, and the good faith and honour of my crown.

I return you my particular thanks for the proof which you have given of your regard to me and to my family, in the ample provision you have made for the Queen; whose virtues, and affection to this country, will, I am confident, be found to deserve it.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I have the fullest persuasion that you will continue to diffuse in your several countries that spirit of concord which you have yourselves so steadily exerted in Parliament: and you may be assured that I will, on my part, return your zeal and affection for my person and government by a constant attention to whatever may contribute to the ease of my subjects; and that it is my ardent wish to found the glories of my reign on the union of my people, and on the welfare and prosperity of these my kingdoms.

Then the Lord Chancellor, by his Majesty's command, said,

My Lords and Gentlemen,

IT is his Majesty's royal will and pleasure, that this Parliament be prorogued until Thursday, the fifteenth day of July next, to be then here held: and this Parliament is accordingly prorogued to Thursday, the fifteenth day of July next.

His Majesty's most gracious Speech, November 25, 1762.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I FOUND, on my accession to the throne, these my kingdoms engaged in a bloody and expensive war. I resolved to prosecute it with the utmost vigour; determined, however, to consent to peace upon just and honourable terms, whenever the events of war should incline the enemy to the same pacific disposition.

A negotiation was accordingly begun last year which proved ineffectual. The war became afterwards more general, by the resolution of the court of Madrid to take part with my enemy, notwithstanding my best endeavours to prevent it.

This, with the unexpected attack of my natural and good ally, the King of Portugal, greatly affected our commerce, multiplied the objects of our military operations, and increased our difficulties, by adding to the heavy burthens under which this country already laboured.

My object still continued the same, to attain an honourable peace, by pursuing this more extensive war in the most vigorous manner. I embraced, therefore, an occasion offered me, of renewing the negotiation; but at the same time I exerted so effectually the strength which you had put into my hands, and have been so well served by my fleets and armies in the execution of my plans, that history cannot furnish examples of greater glory, or greater advantages acquired by the arms of this or any other nation in so short a period of time. My general, Prince Ferdinand of Brunswick, and my army in Germany, have gained immortal honour by many signal advantages obtained during the course of this campaign over an enemy superior in numbers. The progress of the French and Spanish arms in Portugal has been stopped; and that kingdom preserved by the firmness and resolution of its sovereign, and by the military talents of the reigning Count La Lippe, seconded by the valour of the troops under his command. Martinico, and other islands in the West Indies, have been conquered; the Havannah, a place of the utmost importance to Spain, is in my possession, and with it great treasures, and a very considerable part of the navy of Spain are fallen into our hands.

I cannot mention these achievements, which reflect such honour on my crown, without giving my public testimony to the unwearied perseverance and unparalleled bravery of my officers and private men, by sea and land; who, by repeated
proofs

proofs have shewn, that no climate, no hardships, no dangers can check the ardor, or resist the valour of the British arms.

Next to the assistance of Almighty God, it is owing to their conduct and courage that my enemies have been brought to accept of peace on such terms, as, I trust, will give my Parliament entire satisfaction. Preliminary articles have been signed by my minister with those of France and Spain, which I will order in due time to be laid before you.

The conditions of these are such, that there is not only an immense territory added to the empire of Great Britain, but a solid foundation laid for the increase of trade and commerce; and the utmost care has been taken to remove all occasions of future disputes between my subjects and those of France and Spain, and thereby to add security and permanency to the blessings of peace.

While I carefully attended to the essential interests of my own kingdoms, I have had the utmost regard to the good faith of my crown, and the interests of my allies. I have made peace for the King of Portugal, securing to him all his dominions; and all the territories of the King of Prussia, as well as of my other allies in Germany, or elsewhere, occupied by the armies of France, are to be immediately evacuated.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I have ordered the proper estimates to be laid before you; and shall, without delay, proceed to make reductions to the utmost extent wherever they may be found consistent with wisdom and sound policy. It is the greatest affliction for me to find, that, though the war is at an end, our expenses cannot immediately be so much lessened as I desire; but as nothing could have carried us through the great and arduous difficulties surrounding us, but the most vigorous and expensive efforts, we must expect, for some time, to feel the consequences of them to a considerable degree.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

It was impossible to execute what this nation has so gloriously performed in all parts of the world, without the loss of great numbers of men. When you consider this loss, whether on the principles of policy or humanity, you will see one of the many reasons which induced me to enter early into negotiation, so as to make a considerable progress in it, before the fate of many operations was determined; and now to hasten the conclusion of it, to prevent the necessity of making preparations for another campaign. As by this peace my territories are greatly augmented, and new sources opened for
trade

trade and manufactures, it is my earnest desire that you would consider of such methods in the settlements of our new acquisitions, as shall most effectually tend to the security of those countries, and to the improvement of the commerce and navigation of Great Britain. I cannot mention our acquisitions without earnestly recommending to your care and attention my gallant subjects by whose valour they were made.

We could never have carried on this extensive war without the greatest union at home. You will find the same union peculiarly necessary, in order to make the best use of the great advantages acquired by the peace, and to lay the foundation of that œconomy which we owe to ourselves and to our posterity, and which can alone relieve this nation from the heavy burdens brought upon it by the necessities of this long and expensive war.

Address by the House of Lords to his Majesty, Nov. 26, 1762.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Lords spiritual and temporal, in Parliament assembled, return your Majesty our humble thanks for your most gracious speech from the throne.

Permit us, Sir, to take this earliest opportunity to entreat your Majesty to accept our most sincere and fervent congratulations on the birth of an heir to your crown, which adds to your Majesty's domestic happiness, and endears your royal consort to the people of these realms; and promises that, under a prince formed to the arts of government by your Majesty's royal example, the civil and religious liberties, the glory, the commerce, and the power of Great Britain, will be transmitted to posterity.

It is with the utmost gratitude that we acknowledge your Majesty's unwearied attention to the prosperity and happiness of your people; which made your Majesty constantly solicitous, even amidst the glory of your victories, to deliver them from the burdens of war by a just and honourable peace. At the same time we cannot but admire the wisdom which pointed out to your Majesty the most vigorous efforts as the surest means of procuring this blessing for your people.

We beg leave to offer your Majesty our humble congratulations on the signal successes which have attended your Majesty's arms in the course of the present year; on the reduction of the strong island of Martinico; on the conquest of the Havannah, the bulwark of the Spanish colonies, and on the acquisition of so much treasure, and of so great a part of the Spanish

Spanish marine; on the many advantages obtained in Germany over the arms of France, although superior in numbers, by the able conduct of your Majesty's general, Prince Ferdinand of Brunswick, and by the valour of the troops under his command; and on the preservation of Portugal from the dangers which threatened instantly to overwhelm that kingdom, and which could not have been so long withstood but by the firmness of its sovereign, by the military talents of the reigning Count La Lippe, and by the valour of the troops employed in that service. These achievements must be acknowledged to be equal to whatever has been performed in any former year even of this prosperous war, though a new enemy necessarily made our military operations more extensive, and added new difficulties to those we struggled with before: achievements which reflect the highest honour on the councils that planned them, on the commanders who carried them into execution, and on the fleets and armies whose intrepidity no dangers could dismay.

Allow us to express, in the most fervent and grateful manner, our joy and congratulations, that by the repeated efforts your Majesty has at length compelled your enemies to consent to terms of peace, as well as to offer to your Majesty our sincere thanks, for your having informed your Parliament that preliminary articles are already signed by your Majesty's minister, and by those of France and Spain; for your Majesty's most gracious assurances, that you will cause these articles in due time to be laid before them; and for the lights your Majesty has been pleased to give concerning the conditions of them, which afford to your people the fairest prospect of future happiness, prosperity, and security.

Your Majesty may be assured, that we will not fail on our part to take, as soon as possible, into our consideration, the proper methods for the settlement of our new acquisitions, for improving their commerce, and thereby rendering them useful to the mother country. Truly sensible of the merits of those gallant men by whose valour these acquisitions have been made, we shall be ready to concur in every reasonable proposition for rewarding them; lamenting at the same time, as we do, the loss of so many of our fellow subjects, by which the national strength is greatly impaired. We cannot sufficiently admire that wisdom which seized the fortunate hour of reaping the advantages of our victories while we were yet on the summit of our glory, and before we had experienced any reverse of fortune. In grateful return for those many blessings which your Majesty's royal wisdom and fortitude have procured for us, your Majesty may depend on our warmest zeal, on our
constant

constant endeavours to promote that unanimity your Majesty recommends in all our proceedings, and on our attention to those measures of œconomy which are the peculiar business of times of peace, and which alone can relieve your Majesty's faithful people from the oppressive burdens of so long and so expensive a war.

His Majesty's Answer, November 26, 1762.

My Lords,

THIS very affectionate and loyal address gives me the truest satisfaction. I thank you heartily for it, as well as for your congratulations on the birth of the prince, my son, and for the regard you express on this occasion for the Queen.

The cheerful and steady support of my Parliament throughout the war has been attended with uninterrupted success; and the ratification of the preliminary articles will, I trust, soon be followed by the completion of the peace on safe and honourable conditions.

My only wish is, and ever will be, to promote the lasting happiness, prosperity, and security of my faithful people.

Address by the House of Commons to his Majesty, Nov. 26, 1762.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons of Great Britain, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to return your Majesty the most humble and hearty thanks of this House for your most gracious speech from the throne.

Permit us, at the same time, to congratulate your Majesty on the auspicious birth of his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, and the recovery of your royal consort, endeared to this country not only by this important event but by her own personal virtues.

We acknowledge with the utmost gratitude your Majesty's great attention to the welfare of your people in the vigorous prosecution of the war, and congratulate your Majesty on that happy effect of it, the prospect of such a peace as may give stability and permanency to the blessings we promise ourselves under your Majesty's most auspicious reign.

We assure your Majesty, that your faithful Commons are truly sensible of the wisdom with which your plans have been

concerted, as well as of the successful zeal with which they have been carried into execution by your fleets and armies.

The resolution and intrepidity of your Majesty's army in Germany, and the military skill and distinguished activity of your general, Prince Ferdinand of Brunswick, which have obtained so many signal advantages over an enemy so superior in numbers, are objects of our highest admiration: the stopping the progress of the French and Spanish arms in Portugal, and the preservation of that kingdom, by the firmness and resolution of its sovereign, and by the superior talents and able conduct of the reigning Count La Lippe, seconded by the valour of the troops under his command, are events of the highest importance to this nation and its commerce: the reduction of Martinico, so glorious to your Majesty's arms, and the still more glorious and important conquest of the Havannah, by which great treasure and a very considerable part of the navy of Spain are fallen into your Majesty's hands, speak the wisdom of your councils, and the valour of those employed in the execution of these great commands, and fill our hearts with gratitude and satisfaction.

The public testimony which your Majesty has, therefore, graciously given to the unwearied perseverance and unparalleled bravery of your officers and private men, by sea and land, to which, under God, these glorious achievements are to be attributed, is a no less honourable than deserved reward of their services, and must be an additional recommendation of them to the esteem and gratitude of their country.

Allow us, Sir, to thank your Majesty for having promised to direct the preliminary articles of peace to be laid before us. And we receive, with the greatest satisfaction, the information which your Majesty has condescended, in the mean time, to afford us; from which we promise ourselves, that, with your Majesty's dominions, our trade will be increased; and that all occasions of future disputes being removed, the blessings of peace will be thereby rendered permanent and secure.

We return your Majesty our most sincere and humble thanks for your great goodness and tender regard for the welfare of your subjects, in proceeding without delay to the conclusion of the negotiation of peace, so expedient for this country; and for your gracious intentions, as soon as it shall be concluded, to reduce the public expenses.

Your Majesty may be assured, that your faithful Commons will cheerfully assist in the support of such expenses as may be still necessary, with due regard to that œconomy which your
Majesty

Majesty recommends to us, as far as may be consistent with wisdom and true policy.

We will not fail to consider of the most effectual methods of settling our new acquisitions, of securing those countries to us, and of improving our commerce and navigation. And, lamenting the loss of those many brave men who have fallen in this glorious war, we will pay all due attention to the services of those who yet remain, by whose valour those acquisitions have been made. And we will continue to cultivate that union to which we greatly owe the successes of the war, in order thereby to make the best advantages of peace, and lay the foundation of that œconomy which we owe to ourselves and to our posterity.

His Majesty's Answer, November 29, 1762.

Gentlemen,

I RETURN you my hearty thanks for this very dutiful and affectionate address; and I receive your congratulations on the birth of the prince, my son, as a fresh proof of your attachment to my person, and of your regard to the Queen.

The assurances of your ready support in such expenses as may be still necessary afford me the highest satisfaction; and the ratification of the preliminary articles gives me the pleasing hope of soon easing my faithful subjects, by a safe, honourable, and permanent peace, of the heavy but unavoidable burdens they have so cheerfully borne during the war.

The humble Address of the Archbishops, Bishops, and Clergy, of the Province of Canterbury, in Convocation assembled; presented to his Majesty on Friday the third Day of December, 1762.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most loyal and dutiful subjects, the Archbishops, Bishops, and Clergy of the province of Canterbury, in convocation assembled, beg leave to take the first occasion of jointly congratulating your Majesty on the blessing, for which we have separately offered up our fervent thanksgiving to God, of his vouchsafing, and that so early, to you and your excellent consort the Queen, a son to inherit the crown of these realms.

We feel a very sensible pleasure from the increase of your Majesty's domestic felicity, in the addition of paternal to

conjugal tenderness. But our views extend much further ; and, as we owe to your august house the preservation of every thing dear to us as men or christians, and have found each of your illustrious ancestors faithful guardians of all those distinguished advantages, which we enjoy to the height under your Majesty's gracious government, so we trust that Providence hath designed us a pledge of the perpetuity of our happiness, in giving us a prince descended from such progenitors. For we know, that his hereditary good dispositions will be solicitously strengthened and improved by the daily instruction and example of his parents, who will complete their merits to these nations, by forming his youthful mind to the love of religion, of liberty, of our civil and ecclesiastical constitution ; to a judicious zeal for the prosperity of Great Britain, and a sincere benevolence to mankind in general.

May these pleasing labours be successful in the highest degree. May the royal infant grow up in health and strength, become the joy and boast of the public by every valuable attainment, delight your Majesties by the most affectionate duty and gratitude, through an uncommon length of days mercifully granted you ; and, born at the dawning of peace, may he see, all his life, the people of this land reaping the beneficial fruits of it to the utmost.

It shall be our conscientious care to remind our fellow subjects of the inestimable privileges which they possess, and the glorious expectations which they may justly entertain for themselves and their posterity from your Majesty and your family, if they will secure the Divine protection by leading thankfully quiet and peaceable lives in godliness and honesty, as their holy profession requires. And we most dutifully entreat the continuance of your Majesty's attention to the sacred interests of christian piety and moral virtue, which we are fully satisfied you have deeply at heart.

His Majesty's Answer, December 3, 1762.

My Lords, and the rest of the Clergy,

I ACCEPT with thanks these new assurances of your regard to the Queen ; and see, with particular pleasure, the expressions of your gratitude to Almighty God for the birth of the prince, my son.

Your opinion of my fixed intention to educate him in every principle of religious and civil liberty is truly acceptable to me.

Be assured that no endeavour on my part shall be wanting to promote the sacred interests of christian piety and of moral virtue, and to transmit to posterity our present most happy constitution.

Address by the House of Lords, Dec. 10, 1762.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Lords spiritual and temporal, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to return your Majesty our sincerest acknowledgments for the important communication which your Majesty has been graciously pleased to make to us, of the preliminary articles of peace concluded the third day of last month at Fontainebleau with the crowns of France and Spain :

And to express, in the most dutiful manner, to your Majesty, the satisfaction which we have received at the foundation laid by these articles for a treaty of peace, which will greatly redound to your Majesty's honour and the real benefit of your kingdoms ; and our entire reliance, that the same care and attention will be shewn for the perfecting of this great work by the definitive treaty.

We think it our indispensable duty to lay before your Majesty this early testimony of our warmest gratitude, seeing the great object of the war so fully answered, all proper attention shewn to your Majesty's allies, a vast extent of empire to the British crown, new sources opened for the trade and manufactures of this nation, and stability and duration insured, under the blessing of Providence, to these great and national advantages.

We are no less sensible of the prudence and wisdom which has guided your Majesty's conduct on this great occasion, than of the humane disposition and paternal affection to your subjects which your Majesty has shewn, in putting a safe and honourable end to a burdensome and expensive war.

We beg leave to assure your Majesty, that we shall immediately apply ourselves to improve the blessings of peace, by promoting that oeconomy which your Majesty has wisely recommended, and which is so necessary to the dignity of the crown and the prosperity of these your kingdoms.

His Majesty's Answer, Dec. 10, 1762.

My Lords,

I RETURN you thanks for this very dutiful address.

The satisfaction which you express in the points agreed by the preliminary articles towards a final pacification is very acceptable to me.

In what remains to be done, you may depend upon the utmost care and attention on my part to settle every thing which concerns the interests of my kingdoms upon a solid and durable foundation.

Address by the House of Commons, December 10, 1762.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons of Great Britain, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to return your Majesty our most humble and hearty thanks for your most gracious condescension, in ordering to be laid before us the preliminary articles of peace, concluded between your Majesty on the one part, and their Most Christian and Catholic Majesties on the other; and to assure your Majesty, that we have considered them with our best attention: and, although to make peace and war be your Majesty's just and undoubted prerogative, yet, knowing how agreeable it must be to your royal mind to be informed of the grateful sense your people entertain of the justice and wisdom of your measures, and of your unwearied attention to their welfare, your faithful Commons are impatient to express their approbation of the advantageous terms upon which your Majesty has concluded preliminary articles of peace, and to lay before your Majesty the hearty applause of a faithful, affectionate, and thankful people.

While we admire your Majesty's prudence in availing yourself of the successes with which Divine Providence hath blessed your arms, whereby your Majesty hath procured such solid, and, in all human probability, such permanent advantages for this nation, we are no less sensibly affected with that humane disposition which induced your Majesty to put an end to a long, bloody, and expensive, though glorious and successful war.

Your faithful Commons will take the earliest opportunity to examine into the state of the public revenues, in order to establish the best œconomy for the future, so wisely recommended by your Majesty, and so necessary to maintain the king-

kingdom of Great Britain in that great and respectable situation in which your Majesty's fortitude and wisdom have now placed us.

We are convinced that posterity, from their own experience, will hereafter agree with us in esteeming that peace to be no less honourable than profitable, by which there will be ceded to Great Britain such an addition of territory, attended with so great an extension of our commerce.

We therefore beg leave humbly to lay before your Majesty the strongest sentiments of gratitude, and to assure your Majesty, that it shall be our study to improve that confidence of the people in you, which your Majesty hath already so very deservedly acquired from your conduct in the present important conjuncture.

His Majesty's Answer, December 14, 1762.

Gentlemen,

I RETURN you my hearty thanks for this most loyal and affectionate address: your approbation of the measures I have taken for restoring peace, and of the terms upon which it is to be concluded, gives me the highest satisfaction.

The affection and gratitude of my people are the most pleasing return I can receive for my endeavours to promote their happiness.

*Message from his Majesty to the House of Commons,
March 14, 1763.*

GEORGE REX.

HIS Majesty, being sensible of the zeal and vigour with which his faithful subjects in North America have exerted themselves in defence of his Majesty's just rights and possessions, recommends it to this House to take the same into consideration, and to enable his Majesty to give them a proper compensation for the expenses incurred by the respective provinces, in the levying, cloathing, and pay of the troops, raised by the same, according as the active vigour and strenuous efforts of the respective provinces shall justly appear to merit.

G. R.

The humble Address of the Archbishop, the Bishops, and the Clergy of the Province of Canterbury, in Convocation assembled; presented to his Majesty on Friday the fifteenth Day of April, 1763.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most loyal and dutiful subjects, the Archbishop, Bishops, and Clergy of the province of Canterbury, in convocation assembled, humbly beg leave to congratulate you on the good success with which Providence hath graciously crowned your humane and christian labours, for putting an end to the late necessary but expensive and bloody war by the conclusion of a just and honourable peace.

It adds greatly to our joy, your Majesty's influence and example have been happily instrumental in restoring tranquillity throughout the rest of Europe. And our satisfaction is still further heightened by the prospect, that all our fellow subjects in your wide-extended American dominions will, by means of the acquisitions which the British arms have made, and your Majesty hath so prudently retained, live hereafter secure from savage incursions and alarms.

We trust also, that a door will thus be opened to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ in its native purity by the only allowable method, rational and benevolent persuasion, amongst those who have hitherto either been ignorant of it, or mixed it with dangerous errors.

We earnestly pray God to direct and bless your Majesty's counsels to the complete attainment of these salutary ends; and grant you long to see every part of the several nations under your government flourishing in the full enjoyment of all their religious and civil rights, and shewing their thankfulness for such inestimable blessings by a cheerful and uniform obedience to God and your Majesty.

Whatever we can do for the promotion of the public felicity we shall always diligently endeavour, animated to it in the strongest manner both by conscience and inclination.

His Majesty's Answer, April 15, 1763.

My Lords, and the rest of the Clergy,

THIS fresh testimony of your duty and affection to my person and government is very highly agreeable to me. It will ever be my sincere endeavour to extend our most holy religion throughout the vast dominions added to my crown by the late
late

late honourable and advantageous peace : in this pious work; I am persuaded, I shall have the hearty and zealous assistance of my faithful clergy ; and they may be assured of my constant protection and support.

His Majesty's most gracious Speech, April 19, 1763.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I CANNOT put an end to this session of Parliament without expressing my thanks for the signal zeal and dispatch which you have manifested in your proceedings, and which make it unnecessary for me to continue it any longer.

I informed you at your first meeting, that preliminary articles were signed by my minister and those of France and Spain. I ordered them to be laid before you, and the satisfaction which I felt at the approaching re-establishment of peace, upon conditions so honourable to my crown, and so beneficial to my people, was highly increased by my receiving, from both Houses of Parliament, the strongest and most grateful expressions of their entire approbation. These articles have been established, and even rendered still more advantageous to my subjects, by the definitive treaty ; and my expectations have been fully answered by the happy effects which the several allies of my crown have derived from this salutary measure. The powers at war with my good brother, the King of Prussia, have been induced to agree to such terms of accommodation as that great prince has approved ; and the success which has attended my negotiation has necessarily and immediately diffused the blessings of peace through every part of Europe.

I acquainted you with my firm resolution to form my government on a plan of strict œconomy. The reductions necessary for this purpose shall be completed with all possible expedition ; and although the army maintained in those kingdoms will be inferior in number to that usually kept up in former times of peace, yet I trust that the force proposed, with the establishment of the national militia, (whose services I have experienced, and cannot too much commend) will prove a sufficient security for the future.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I have seen, with the highest concern, the great anticipations of the revenue, and the heavy debts unprovided for during the late war, which have reduced you to the unhappy necessity of imposing further burdens upon my people. Under these circumstances, it is my earnest wish to contribute, by every means,

means, to their relief. The utmost frugality shall be observed in the disposition of the supplies which you have granted; and when the accounts of the money arising from the sale of such prizes as are vested in the crown shall be closed, it is my intention to direct that the produce shall be applied to the public service.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

The extension of the commerce of my subjects, the improvement of the advantages we have obtained, and the increase of the public revenue, are the proper works of peace. To these important and necessary objects my attention shall be directed. I depend upon your constant care to promote, in your several counties, that spirit of concord, and that obedience to law, which is essential to good order, and to the happiness of my faithful subjects. It is your part to discourage every attempt of a contrary tendency; it shall be mine firmly to maintain the honour of my crown, and to protect the rights of my people.

Then the Lord Chancellor, by his Majesty's command, said,

My Lords and Gentlemen,

IT is his Majesty's royal will and pleasure, that this Parliament be prorogued to Thursday, the twenty-third day of June next, to be then here held: and this Parliament is accordingly prorogued to Thursday, the twenty-third day of June next.

His Majesty's most gracious Speech, November 15, 1763.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

THE re-establishment of the public tranquillity, upon terms of honour and advantage to my kingdoms, was the first great object of my reign. That salutary measure has received the approbation of my Parliament, and has since been happily completed and carried into execution by the definitive treaty. It has been, and shall be, my endeavour to insure the continuance of the peace, by a faithful and steady adherence to the conditions upon which it was concluded, and I have the satisfaction to acquaint you, that the several powers of Europe who were engaged against us in the late war, have given me the strongest assurances of the same good disposition. Our principal care ought now to be employed to improve the valuable

luable acquisitions which we have made, and to cultivate the arts of peace in such a manner, as may most effectually contribute to extend the commerce, and to augment the happiness of my kingdoms.

For these great purposes I have called you together. It will ever be my earnest wish and endeavour to demonstrate to my people, by my actions, the love which I bear them; and I doubt not of receiving from them the grateful and just returns of duty and affection.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I will order the proper estimates for the service of the year to be laid before you. The heavy debts contracted in the course of the late war, for many of which no provision is yet made, call for your utmost attention and the strictest frugality. I must, however, earnestly recommend to you the support of my fleet, to which our past successes have been so much owing, and upon which the future welfare and importance of Great Britain do most essentially depend. To ease my people of some part of these burdens, I have directed, as I promised at the end of the last session of Parliament, that the money arising from the sale of the prizes vested in the crown should be applied to the public service. It is my intention to reserve, for the same use, whatever sums shall be produced by the sale of any of the lands belonging to me in the islands of the West Indies which were ceded to us by the late treaty.

The improvement of the public revenue, by such regulations as shall be judged most expedient for that purpose, deserves your serious consideration. This will be the surest means of reducing the national debt, and of relieving my subjects from those burdens which the expenses of the late war have brought upon them, and will, at the same time, establish the public credit upon the most solid foundation.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

As the interests and prosperity of my people are the sole objects of my care, I have only to desire, that you will pursue such measures as are conducive to those ends with dispatch and unanimity. Domestic union will be essentially necessary to remedy those evils which are the consequences of war, to enable us to reap the most permanent advantages from the conclusion of the peace, and to discourage that licentious spirit which is repugnant to the true principles of liberty and of this happy constitution. In this opinion I trust that my subjects will be confirmed by your example, and that they will be taught by your proceedings to unite their utmost endeavours

to support such measures as may equally tend to the honour and dignity of my crown, and to their own security and happiness.

Address to his Majesty by the House of Lords, Nov. 16, 1763.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Lords spiritual and temporal, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to return your Majesty our humble thanks for your most gracious speech from the throne.

Permit us, Sir, to take the earliest opportunity of congratulating your Majesty on the happy addition to your royal family by the auspicious birth of a second prince, and of expressing our most sincere wishes, that the same Divine blessing may be continued to your Majesty's illustrious house; on which the preservation of our holy religion, and our rights and liberties, do, under God, so essentially depend.

We beg leave also to declare our utmost gratitude to your Majesty, for the re-establishment of the public tranquillity upon terms of honour to your crown and advantage to your people. We have the firmest reliance on your Majesty's most gracious assurances of your endeavours to secure the continuance of a peace, so necessary to the relief of your subjects, who have long laboured under the burden of a most expensive, though successful war, in every part of the globe; and we receive with great satisfaction the communication which your Majesty has been pleased to make to us of the good disposition of the several powers engaged in the late war, whose concurrence in your Majesty's salutary intentions will, we trust, long insure the tranquillity of Europe.

We are deeply sensible of your Majesty's paternal care and attention for the improvement of your conquests, and the extension of the commerce of your subjects, in which the public welfare is so materially concerned, and we will not fail, on our part, to exert our warmest endeavours in forwarding your Majesty's great and gracious purposes. For we have nothing more sincerely at heart, than that your Majesty having by your conduct impressed on the minds of your faithful subjects a full conviction of your true affection, may receive from them the most ample returns of duty and attachment which a loyal and grateful people can make.

Convinced as we are that domestic union is essentially necessary for securing the advantages derived to us from the late happy and honourable peace, we cannot sufficiently express
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our abhorrence of that seditious spirit which has of late manifested itself in defiance of the laws, to the subversion of good order, and to the disgrace of liberty, whose sacred name it has so insolently assumed. And we beg leave to assure your Majesty that by our zeal and application in bringing all offenders of that sort to justice, as well as by our proceedings in general, we will endeavour to give such an example as may induce your Majesty's subjects to unite in discouraging a licentiousness which is so repugnant to the true principles of this happy constitution, and in promoting such measures as may equally conduce to the honour and dignity of your Majesty's crown, and to their own happiness and security.

His Majesty's Answer, November 16, 1763.

My Lords,

THESE hearty assurances of your loyalty and affection are truly acceptable to me; and I receive, with particular satisfaction, your congratulations upon the birth of my second son.

Your concurrence with me in pursuing the essential objects of our national attention, under the present happy pacification, will be of great importance towards the success of my endeavours for securing the prosperity of my people.

I do both highly approve the zeal which you profess, and firmly rely upon the exertion of it, against that licentious and factious spirit which is the most dangerous enemy to our excellent and invaluable constitution.

Address by the House of Commons to his Majesty, Nov. 17, 1763.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons of Great Britain, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to return your Majesty our humble thanks for your most gracious speech from the throne.

Permit us at the same time to offer our warmest congratulations to your Majesty on the auspicious birth of another prince, and on the happy recovery of your royal consort, now further endeared to this country by the increase of those pledges of our liberty and future happiness.

We beg leave to congratulate your Majesty on the completion of that great and salutary measure, the re-establishment
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of the public tranquillity upon terms so honourable to your crown, and so advantageous to your people.

Allow us, Sir, to assure your Majesty, that we feel the highest satisfaction in the declaration which you are so graciously pleased to make of your resolution faithfully and steadily to adhere to the condition of the peace which your Majesty has concluded; and that we cannot but consider the strong assurances of the same good disposition, given by the several powers of Europe who were lately engaged against us, as the natural consequence of your Majesty's wisdom and firmness, and as a farther preface that the blessings of peace will be uninterrupted and permanent.

We are truly sensible of that paternal love to your people, of which your Majesty has been pleased to assure us in so affecting a manner; and we will assiduously apply ourselves to the accomplishment of those great purposes for which your Majesty has called us together, the improvement of our valuable acquisitions, the extension of our commerce, and the cultivating of every art of peace which may either tend to alleviate the heavy burdens occasioned by the war, or may otherwise contribute to the general welfare of these kingdoms.

We beg leave to assure your Majesty, that your faithful Commons will cheerfully grant to your Majesty such supplies as shall be found necessary for the service of the year; that they will be careful to maintain the navy of Great Britain upon the most respectable footing; and that they look upon your Majesty's earnest recommendation of this important object as a testimony of your royal attention to the true and essential interest of this country.

We acknowledge, with the deepest sense of gratitude, your Majesty's gracious and tender concern for the relief of your people, by directing that the money arising from the sale of prizes vested in the crown should be applied to the public service; and for that additional mark of your royal beneficence, in signifying your intention to reserve, for the same use, whatever sums shall be produced by the sale of any of the lands belonging to the crown, in the islands of the West Indies, ceded by the late treaty.

Your Majesty may be assured that we will bestow the strictest attention upon that interesting subject which your Majesty has pointed out to our serious consideration; and will diligently weigh every regulation which may be proposed for the improvement of the public revenue, as the most effectual method to reduce the national debt, to relieve your Majesty's subjects from the burdens of the late war, and to confirm and strengthen the public credit.

We are thoroughly convinced, by the whole tenor of your Majesty's most auspicious reign, that the common good and prosperity of your people are the sole objects of your care; and that we should therefore be wanting to ourselves, and neglectful of our own happiness, if we did not pursue, with unanimity and dispatch, such measures as may best contribute to these great ends, and may most effectually discourage that spirit of disorder and licentiousness which is no less dangerous to liberty than destructive of government.

Animated with these sentiments, we will endeavour, by our own conduct, to set an example to others, of duty to our sovereign, and of love to our country; being firmly persuaded that, under a prince adorned with those virtues which distinguish your Majesty, your real interests and those of your people are inseparable.

His Majesty's Answer, Nov. 28, 1763.

Gentlemen,

I RETURN you my hearty thanks for this very dutiful and affectionate address, and for your congratulations on the happy event of the birth of my second son.

The satisfaction which you express at the re-establishment of the public tranquillity is highly acceptable to me; and your resolution to pursue such measures as are most conducive to the honour and happiness of my kingdoms, will always meet with my warmest approbation and concurrence.

*Joint Address to his Majesty by both Houses of Parliament,
December 5, 1763.*

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and faithful subjects, the Lords spiritual and temporal, and Commons, in Parliament assembled, having taken into our consideration a late false, scandalous, and seditious libel, intituled, "The North Briton, No. 45," think it our indispensable duty to express our surprise and indignation at finding, that neither the public nor private virtues which so eminently intitle your Majesty to the highest veneration, as well as to the most grateful and loyal attachment of all your subjects, nor the gracious expressions of your tender care and affection for your people in your Majesty's speech from the throne at the end of the last session of Parliament, which has been thus infamously traduced, should

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have been sufficient to secure your Majesty from so insolent and unexampled an indignity.

Such, indeed, has been your Majesty's uniform adherence to the principles of our happy constitution, and such the uninterrupted harmony and good correspondence between your Majesty and your Parliament, that it is no wonder to see that the same audacious hand which hath dared thus grossly to affront your Majesty, should, at the same time, violate the other sacred regards prescribed by the laws and constitution of this country; aspersing and calumniating every branch of the legislature, and endeavouring to excite amongst all ranks of your Majesty's subjects, such a spirit of discord and disobedience as could end in nothing but the total subversion of all lawful government.

Permit us also to express to your Majesty our firm persuasion and just confidence, that this most extravagant and outrageous attempt will prove as impotent as it is wicked; that instead of answering those purposes for which it appears to have been calculated, it will, on the contrary, serve to excite in your faithful subjects the abhorrence of such dangerous practices, to unite them more firmly in their zealous attachment to your Majesty's person and government, and in a due reverence for the authority of the legislature; and lastly, that in consequence of your Majesty's directions to prosecute the authors of this infamous libel, it will bring such punishment upon those who shall be found guilty of so atrocious a crime, as the laws of their country have prescribed, and as the public justice and safety shall demand.

His Majesty's Answer, December 5, 1763.

Lords and Gentlemen,

THE very affectionate zeal which you express for the vindication of my honour, and your declared resolution to support the authority of Parliament, cannot fail of being extremely grateful to me. It has been hitherto, and it always shall be, my care to regulate my conduct according to the principles of the constitution. I will not therefore be wanting in carrying the laws into execution against all who shall presume to violate any of those principles: and in this resolution, I doubt not of receiving the hearty concurrence and support both of my Parliament and my people.

His

His Majesty's most gracious Speech, April 19, 1764.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I CANNOT put an end to this session of Parliament without returning you my thanks for the prudent and salutary measures which you have taken to extend the commerce, and to secure the happiness of my kingdoms.

The assurances which I have received of the pacific disposition of the several powers with whom we were lately at war, and of their resolution to adhere inviolably to the terms of the late treaty, promise the continuance of peace abroad ; and the firm and temperate exertion of your authority, joined to the constitutional and public-spirited conduct which you have manifested on every occasion during the present session, will, I trust, establish at home due obedience to the laws, reverence to the legislature, and domestic union.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I thank you for the supplies which you have so cheerfully and unanimously granted. The ample provision you have made for the several services recommended to you, and especially for maintaining my fleet in a respectable state, will, I am confident, preserve to this nation its proper weight and influence, and give strength and security to all my dominions.

The wise regulations which have been established to augment the public revenues, to unite the interests of the most distant possessions of my crown, and to encourage and secure the commerce with Great Britain, call for my hearty approbation.

Your regard to public credit, in discharging part of the heavy debt contracted and unprovided for during the late war, without imposing on this kingdom the burden of any new taxes, is particularly pleasing to me, from the tender concern which I feel for my people.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

It is the proper employment of this season of tranquillity, to consider of the most effectual means for perfecting those works of peace, and plans of public utility, which have been so wisely and happily begun.

I recommend these important objects to your consideration during the recess: you may depend upon my constant endeavours for the success of these good purposes ; as I shall ever esteem it my truest glory to employ that power with which the constitution hath intrusted me in promoting your real interests and lasting happiness.

Then the Lord Chancellor, by his Majesty's command, said,

My Lords and Gentlemen,

IT is his Majesty's royal will and pleasure, that this Parliament be prorogued to Thursday, the twenty-first day of June next, to be then here held: and this Parliament is accordingly prorogued to Thursday, the twenty-first day of June next.

His Majesty's most gracious Speech, Jan. 10, 1765.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

THE situation of affairs, both at home and abroad, has enabled me to allow you that recess which has been usual in times of public tranquillity.

I have now the satisfaction to inform you, that I have agreed with my good brother, the King of Denmark, to cement the union which has long subsisted between the two crowns, by the marriage of the Prince Royal of Denmark with my sister, the Princess Caroline Matilda, which is to be solemnized as soon as their respective ages will permit.

I observe with pleasure, that the events which have happened in the course of the last year give us reason to hope for duration of that peace which has been so happily established, and which it is my resolution strictly to maintain. The courts of France and Spain have given me fresh assurances of their good dispositions. The future quiet of the empire has been confirmed by the unanimous choice of a successor to the Imperial dignity; and the peaceable election of the King of Poland has prevented those fatal consequences, which, upon similar occasions, have so frequently been destructive to the repose of Europe. I am happy, therefore, to meet my Parliament at a time when no foreign disturbances interrupt their consultations for the internal good order and prosperity of my kingdoms.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I shall ask of you, for the current service of the year, no other supplies than such as are necessary for those establishments which have already met with your approbation; and I will order the proper estimates for this purpose to be laid before you.

I must, however, earnestly recommend to you the continuance of that attention which you have hitherto shewn, for the improvement of the public revenue, and the diminution of the national debt. For these desirable and necessary ends, I am
persuaded

persuaded that you will pursue every proper measure, which the state of my dominions, and the circumstances of the times, may require.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

The experience which I have had of your former conduct makes me rely on your wisdom and firmness, in promoting that obedience to the laws, and respect to the legislative authority of this kingdom, which is essentially necessary for the safety of the whole, and in establishing such regulations as may best connect and strengthen every part of my dominions, for their mutual benefit and support.

The affection which I bear to my people excites my earnest wish, that every session of Parliament may be distinguished by some plans for the public advantage, and for their relief from those difficulties which an expensive war has brought upon them. My concurrence and encouragement shall never be wanting where their welfare is concerned; and I trust, that, for the attainment of that great object, you will proceed with temper, unanimity, and dispatch.

Address by the House of Lords, Jan. 11, 1765.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Lords spiritual and temporal, in Parliament assembled, return your Majesty our humble thanks for your most gracious speech from the throne.

We acknowledge, with gratitude, your Majesty's goodness, in acquainting us with your having agreed to a marriage between the Prince Royal of Denmark and your Majesty's sister, the Princess Caroline Matilda, to be solemnized as soon as their respective ages will permit. And we beg leave to assure your Majesty of our entire satisfaction in the choice of this alliance; which, under the blessing of Providence, cannot fail of cementing and strengthening the union which has so long subsisted between the crown of Great Britain and Denmark, and thereby conducing to the support of the protestant cause.

We sincerely rejoice in those events of the last year, which seem to promise a continuance of the peace so happily established; and we receive, with gratitude, the declaration which your Majesty is graciously pleased to make, of your resolution strictly to maintain it. We hope that the fresh assurances which the courts of France and Spain have given of their good dispositions; the quiet of the empire, confirmed by the unanimous

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choice of a successor to the Imperial dignity ; and the peaceable election of the King of Poland ; will contribute to the security of the general tranquillity of Europe, and that it will long remain fixed on a firm and lasting basis. And we beg leave to assure your Majesty, that, as the present undisturbed state of affairs abroad affords so favorable an opportunity for the deliberations of your Parliament on such objects as may be most conducive to the internal good order and prosperity of these kingdoms, nothing shall be wanting in care and attention on our part which may promote the welfare and the honor of our country.

Permit us, Sir, to offer your Majesty our humble acknowledgments, for the gracious approbation which your Majesty is pleased to declare of our former conduct ; and to give your Majesty the strongest assurances, that we will firmly persist in exerting our zealous endeavours to promote due obedience to the laws, and reverence to the legislative authority of this kingdom ; and to establish such regulations as shall appear to be most conducive to the mutual benefit and support of all your Majesty's dominions.

With hearts full of duty and affection, we offer our unfeigned thanks to your Majesty for your paternal care and tender concern for the difficulties which have been brought on your subjects by a long and burdensome war ; and for your royal wishes that your Parliament may take every occasion for their relief. Animated with these sentiments, we assure your Majesty that we will proceed with that temper, unanimity, and dispatch, which your Majesty is pleased to recommend to us in the pursuit of those great and important objects, to which your Majesty has directed our attention.

His Majesty's Answer, Jan. 11, 1765.

My Lords,

I THANK you for this dutiful and affectionate address. The satisfaction which you express on the intended marriage of my sister, the Princess Caroline Matilda, is particularly agreeable to me. And I accept, with pleasure, the assurances you give me of your zealous endeavours for the advancement of the prosperity of my kingdoms, and the happiness of my people, which I shall ever have most sincerely at heart.

Address

Address to his Majesty by the House of Commons, Jan. 11, 1765.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons of Great Britain, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to return your Majesty the most humble thanks of this House for your most gracious speech from the throne.

Permit us, at the same time, to offer to your Majesty our dutiful congratulations upon the marriage agreed to be solemnized between the Prince Royal of Denmark and her Royal Highness the Princess Caroline Matilda, as soon as their respective ages will permit, which happy union cannot but be most pleasing to your faithful Commons, as it must tend to cement and strengthen the ancient alliance between the crowns of Great Britain and Denmark, and thereby add security to the protestant religion.

We beg leave also to declare our satisfaction at those events of the last year, which promise the continuance of the peace so happily established and maintained by your Majesty's wife and steady conduct, and to express our hopes, that the fresh assurances which have been given by the courts of France and Spain, of their good dispositions, the unanimous choice of a successor to the Imperial throne, and the undisturbed election of the King of Poland, will secure and confirm the general tranquillity of Europe. In this situation, we think it our duty to give our particular attention to such regulations, as will most effectually promote the internal good order and prosperity of these kingdoms.

Your Majesty may be assured, that we will, with cheerfulness and dispatch, raise such supplies as shall be found necessary for the current service of the year. And being thoroughly sensible of your Majesty's paternal concern for the relief and welfare of your people, in recommending to us the improvement of the public revenue, and the diminution of the national debt, on which the future safety of Great Britain must depend, we will apply ourselves, with the utmost zeal and assiduity, to carry into execution every proper measure which may contribute to these great and salutary purposes, and which the state of your Majesty's dominions and the circumstances of the times shall require.

We acknowledge with the liveliest gratitude the gracious expressions of your Majesty's tender affection, and of your constant care for the mutual benefit and support of all your subjects. And we assure your Majesty, that, animated with these sentiments, we will endeavour to deserve the confidence which

your Majesty is pleased to repose in us, by pursuing every plan which shall appear to us to be calculated for the public advantage; and will proceed therein with that temper and firmness which will best conciliate and insure due submission to the laws, and reverence to the legislative authority of Great Britain.

His Majesty's Answer, Jan. 14, 1765.

Gentlemen,

I RETURN you my thanks for this very dutiful and affectionate address: and I receive, with the greatest pleasure, your congratulations on the marriage agreed to be solemnized between the Prince Royal of Denmark, and my sister, the Princess Caroline Matilda. My constant endeavour shall be employed to preserve the public tranquillity, to secure the rights, and promote the happiness of my people.

His Majesty's most gracious Speech, April 24, 1765.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

THE tender concern which I feel for my faithful subjects, makes me anxious to provide for every possible event which may affect their future happiness or security.

My late indisposition, though not attended with danger, has led me to consider the situation in which my kingdom and my family might be left, if it should please God to put a period to my life, whilst my successor is of tender years.

The high importance of this subject to the public safety, good order, and tranquillity, the paternal affection which I bear to my children, and to all my people, and my earnest desire that every precaution should be taken, which may tend to preserve the constitution of Great Britain undisturbed, and the dignity and lustre of its crown unimpaired, have determined me to lay this weighty business before my Parliament: and as my health, by the blessing of God, is now restored, I take the earliest opportunity of meeting you here, and of recommending to your most serious deliberation the making such provision as would be necessary, in case any of my children should succeed to the throne before they shall respectively attain the age of eighteen years.

To this end, I propose to your consideration, whether under the present circumstances it will not be expedient to vest in me the power of appointing from time to time, by instruments
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in writing under my sign manual, either the Queen, or any other person of my royal family, usually residing in Great Britain, to be the guardian of the person of such successor, and the regent of these kingdoms, until such successor shall attain the age of eighteen years, subject to the like restrictions and regulations, as are specified and contained in an act passed upon a similar occasion, in the twenty-fourth year of the reign of the late King, my royal grandfather: the regent so appointed to be assisted by a council, composed of the several persons, who, by reason of their dignities and offices, are constituted members of the council established by that act, together with those whom you may think proper to leave to my nomination.

Joint Address by both Houses of Parliament, April 25, 1765.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Lords spiritual and temporal, and Commons, in Parliament assembled, presume to approach your sacred person with our warmest acknowledgments of the peculiar goodness expressed in your most gracious speech from the throne.

We humbly entreat your Majesty's acceptance of our heartiest congratulations upon your recovery from your late indisposition.

Your Majesty's return to your Parliament has dissipated all those anxious sensations which the occasion of your absence had excited: and as the re-establishment of your invaluable health is an object to your faithful people of the sincerest joy and exultation, your Majesty has shewn a most affectionate regard to their satisfaction, in condescending to take the earliest opportunity of giving them so pleasing a proof of it.

This great mark of your Majesty's attention demands our most sincere and dutiful thanks: but we have before us a still more engaging instance of your watchful solicitude for our future security and happiness.

The constant tenor of your just and constitutional government, distinguished and endeared to your kingdoms by an unwearied application to the advancement of their interests and prosperity, had already filled our minds with a most cordial sense of gratitude. The new proof which your Majesty is now pleased to give us, of your truly paternal tenderness, by extending your concern for the stability, dignity, and lustre of your crown, with all the happy effects of your love to your royal children, and to your faithful subjects, beyond the period of your own continuance among them, must inspire us with still higher degrees, if possible, of reverence and affection.

Whilst we contemplate with admiration that magnanimity which enables your Majesty to look forward, with a cool composure of thought, to an event, which, whenever it should please God to permit it, must overwhelm your loyal subjects with the bitterest distraction of grief, we cannot but be deeply affected with that compassionate sentiment of your royal heart, which suggests a provision for their comfort under so severe an affliction.

May it please the Divine Providence to exempt us from the fatal necessity of such a consolation! Your Majesty has shewn, from the first day of your auspicious reign, so conscientious a regard to the laws and liberties, the religious and civil rights of your kingdoms, that we should be insensible and unworthy of the happiness we ourselves enjoy, if we did not ardently wish to transmit it under the same gracious care and protection to our children.

Yet, feeling, as we do, the infinite importance of every measure that may tend to the perpetuating, in all events, our happy constitution; in deference to your Majesty's recommendation, and under a full conviction of that consummate prudence and beneficent intention which were the motives of it, we will not fail to apply ourselves to the immediate discussion of the high and momentous object which your Majesty has been pleased to propose to our consideration.

Our deliberations concerning it will be animated by the hopes of securing to our posterity, under the blessing of Almighty God, and in concurrence with your Majesty's salutary designs, the inestimable blessing of a legal protestant succession to the crown of these realms in your royal family; and will be influenced by a just confidence in your princely wisdom and paternal concern for your people.

We shall go into this consultation with a sensible anxiety arising from the subject of it; but we humbly assure your Majesty, that we will conclude it with all the dispatch compatible with its singular importance; repeating, at the same time, our earnest supplications, that, through the mercy of God upon this protestant church and nation, a precaution so expedient in prospect may become useless in the event, by your Majesty's living to form, under your own instruction, a successor worthy to inherit the allegiance and affections of a free people, by a long and mature attention to the example of your royal virtues.

His Majesty's Answer, April 25, 1765.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

YOUR affectionate congratulations upon my recovery, and the sense which you express of your happiness under my government, give me the greatest satisfaction.

Be assured, I have not a more sincere concern, or a more earnest desire, than to secure to my faithful people, both now and hereafter, the religious and civil blessings of our invaluable constitution.

His Majesty's most gracious Speech, May 25, 1765.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

THE dispatch which you have given, with so much zeal and wisdom to the public business, enables me now to put a period to this session of Parliament.

No alteration in the state of foreign affairs has happened since you meeting to disturb the general peace; and it is with pleasure that I inform you, that the present dispositions of the several powers of Europe promise the continuance of this blessing.

I have seen, with the most perfect approbation, that you have employed this season of tranquillity in promoting those objects which I had recommended to your attention, and in framing such regulations as may best enforce the just authority of the legislature, and, at the same time, secure and extend the commerce, and unite the interests, of every part of my dominions.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

The cheerfulness and prudence which you have shewn, in providing for the necessary expenses of the present year, deserve my particular acknowledgments. The many bills which you have formed for the improvement and augmentation of the revenue in its several branches, and the early care which you have taken to discharge a part of the national debt, are the most effectual methods to establish the public credit upon the surest foundation, and to alleviate by degrees the burdens of my people.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

The provisions which have been made for the administration of the government, in case the crown should descend to any of my children under the age of eighteen years, whilst they add strength and security to our present establishment, give me the kindest and most convincing proof of your confidence. The sense which I have of the important trust reposed in me, and my
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desire to repay this mark of your affection, by discharging my part agreeably to your intentions; in the manner most beneficial to my people, have concurred to make me execute, without delay, the powers with which you have intrusted me. This is already done; and you may be assured, that, as far as it depends upon me, those salutary provisions shall never be ineffectual. It is my ardent wish, and shall be my constant endeavour, on this and every other occasion, to perpetuate the happiness of my subjects, and to transmit to posterity the blessings of our invaluable constitution.

Then the Lord Chancellor, by his Majesty's command, said,

My Lords and Gentlemen,

IT is his Majesty's royal will and pleasure, that this Parliament be prorogued to Thursday, the eleventh day of July next, to be then here held: and this Parliament is accordingly prorogued to Thursday, the eleventh day of July next.

His Majesty's most gracious Speech, Dec. 17, 1765.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

THE present general state of tranquillity in Europe gave me hopes that it would not have been necessary to assemble my Parliament sooner than is usual in times of peace.

But as matters of importance have lately occurred in some of my colonies in America, which will demand the most serious attention of Parliament; and as further informations are daily expected from different parts of that country, of which I shall order the fullest accounts to be prepared for your consideration, I have thought fit to call you now together, in order that opportunity may thereby be given to issue the necessary writs on the many vacancies that have happened in the House of Commons since the last session, so that the Parliament may be full to proceed immediately after the usual recess on the consideration of such weighty matters as will then come before you.

Address

Address by the House of Lords, Dec. 18, 1765.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Lords spiritual and temporal, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to return your Majesty our humble thanks for your most gracious speech from the throne

We should be wanting in our duty not to assure your Majesty, that when your Majesty shall have been pleased to communicate to your Parliament those informations and advices which have been or shall be received from America, we will proceed to the consideration of those weighty matters with an attention equal to the importance of the subject, and with a resolution to do every thing which the exigency of the case may require

Attentive to every event which affects your Majesty, permit us to congratulate your Majesty on the birth of a prince. Whatever adds to your domestic happiness, and the stability and increase of that illustrious house from which these kingdoms have received the most important benefits, must always afford the highest satisfaction to your faithful subjects.

Animated by the same sentiments of zeal and duty to your Majesty and your royal family, and under the deepest impressions of concern, we beg leave to approach your throne with our sincere condolence on the loss of his late royal highness the Duke of Cumberland.

The many eminent public and private virtues, the extent of capacity, and the magnanimity of mind, the affection for your Majesty's person, and the eminent services performed for this country, which distinguished that great and excellent prince, as they have left a lasting memorial in your royal breast, so have they made an impression never to be erased from the minds of your grateful people.

His Majesty's Answer, December 18, 1765.

My Lords,

THE assurances you give me of your loyalty and affection are truly pleasing to me.

I have the strongest reliance on your resolution to do every thing that may be most expedient in the present state of my colonies in America.

I see with particular pleasure those sentiments of zeal and duty to me and my family, with which you express your satisfaction

faction on the birth of my third son, and your concern for the loss I have sustained by the death of the Duke of Cumberland.

Address by the House of Commons, Dec. 18, 1765.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons of Great Britain, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to return your Majesty the thanks of this House for your most gracious speech from the throne; and to assure your Majesty that we will not fail, when this House shall be supplied with its members, to apply ourselves with the utmost diligence and attention to those important occurrences in America which your Majesty recommends to our consideration, and to exert our most zealous endeavours for the honour of your Majesty's government and the true interest of your people in all parts of your extended empire.

Permit us, at the same time, to congratulate your Majesty on the late increase of your royal family by the birth of a prince. Your Majesty's happiness and that of your people are one, and every increase of your Majesty's illustrious family is considered by your faithful Commons as a further security to that religion and those liberties we enjoy under your Majesty's most auspicious government.

We also beg leave to offer to your Majesty our sincere condolence on the great loss which your Majesty and this kingdom have sustained by the death of his late royal highness the Duke of Cumberland, whose private and public virtues, whose duty and affection to your Majesty, and whose distinguished merits and services to this country, as they made his person dear to this nation while he lived, so they cannot fail to render his memory sacred to the latest posterity.

His Majesty's Answer, December 20, 1765.

Gentlemen,

I RETURN you thanks for this loyal and dutiful address.

The satisfaction you express in the increase of my family, and the affectionate share you take in the great loss I have sustained by the death of the Duke of Cumberland, are fresh proofs of your zeal and loyalty.

Your resolution, at the same time, to support the honour of my government, and to provide for the true interest of all my people,

people, cannot but be most acceptable to me. My conduct shall always shew that I consider their interest as inseparable from my own.

His Majesty's most gracious Speech, January 14, 1766.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

WHEN I met you last, I acquainted you that matters of importance had happened in America, which would demand the most serious attention of Parliament.

That no information which could serve to direct your deliberations in so interesting a concern might be wanting, I have ordered all the papers that give any light into the origin, the progress, or the tendency of the disturbances which have of late prevailed in some of the northern colonies, to be immediately laid before you.

No time has been lost on the first advice of these disturbances to issue orders to the governors of my provinces, and to the commanders of my forces in America, for the exertion of all the powers of government in the suppression of riots and tumults, and in the effectual support of lawful authority.

Whatever remains to be done on this occasion I commit to your wisdom, not doubting but your zeal for the honour of my crown, your attention to the just rights and authority of the British legislature, and your affection and concern for the welfare and prosperity of all my people, will guide you to such sound and prudent resolutions as may tend at once to preserve those constitutional rights over the colonies, and to restore to them that harmony and tranquillity which have lately been interrupted by riots and disorders of the most dangerous nature.

If any alterations should be wanting in the commercial œconomy of the plantations which may tend to enlarge and secure the mutual and beneficial intercourse of my kingdoms and colonies, they will deserve your most serious consideration. In effectuating purposes so worthy of your wisdom and public spirit, you may depend upon my most hearty concurrence and support. The present happy tranquillity now subsisting in Europe will enable you to pursue such objects of our interior policy with a more uninterrupted attention.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I have ordered the proper estimates for the current service of the year to be laid before you. Such supplies as you may grant shall be duly applied with the utmost fidelity, and shall be dispensed with the strictest œconomy.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I earnestly recommend to you to proceed in your deliberations with temper and unanimity. The time requires, and I doubt not but your own inclination will lead you to those salutary dispositions. I have nothing at heart but the assertion of legal authority, the preservation of the liberties of all my subjects, the equity and good order of my government, and the concord and prosperity of all parts of my dominions.

Address to his Majesty by the House of Lords, Jan. 15, 1766.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Lords spiritual and temporal, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to return our hearty and most unfeigned thanks to your Majesty for your most gracious speech from the throne.

We gratefully acknowledge your Majesty's goodness and condescension, in ordering to be immediately laid before us all the materials of information which may serve to direct our proceedings upon the very important objects which your Majesty has proposed to our consideration.

We cannot avoid expressing our satisfaction in your Majesty's parental care and vigilance, in losing no time to issue the necessary orders for exerting the several powers of government in the suppression of riots and tumults, and the support of order and legal authority. Concurring heartily with your Majesty's salutary intentions, we will exert our utmost endeavours to assert and support your Majesty's dignity and honour, and the legislative authority of this kingdom over its colonies; and will take the most proper methods to provide the restoration of the tranquillity of those colonies which has been disturbed by such violent and dangerous commotions.

We congratulate your Majesty that the state of tranquillity so happily subsisting in Europe, leaves us at leisure to attend to the mutual commercial concerns of your kingdoms and colonies.

Permit us, Sir, to condole with you on the loss your Majesty and your royal family has sustained by the premature death of his royal highness Prince Frederick William, whose amiable qualities and early attainments afforded so pleasing a prospect of happiness to your Majesty, and of advantage to your kingdoms.

Our deliberations will, we trust, be conducted with that prudence and temper which your Majesty so graciously recommends.

mends. You will find, Sir, that our sentiments correspond with your Majesty's gracious intentions towards all your subjects ; and that all things which may tend to re-establish tranquillity and order, and to cement the several parts of the British dominions in a close connection and constitutional dependence, shall be the first objects of our attention ; that such a firm authority may be established, and such a general satisfaction diffused over every part of your extensive empire, as ought to distinguish the government of so wise, so just, and so beneficent a prince.

His Majesty's Answer, Jan. 15, 1766.

My Lords,

I THANK you for this dutiful and loyal address. Your firm and temperate resolutions to support the dignity of my crown, and the legislative authority of this kingdom over its colonies, your care at the same time to re-establish order and tranquillity in those colonies, and your regard to the prosperity and happiness of all my people, shew dispositions which are altogether worthy of your wisdom, and which cannot fail of producing the most salutary effects both at home and abroad. You will find me unalterably fixed in the same intentions. Your affectionate condolence on the death of my brother affords me some consolation on that melancholy occasion.

Address by the House of Commons, January 15, 1766.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons of Great Britain, in Parliament assembled, return your Majesty our most humble thanks for your most gracious speech from the throne.

It is with the highest sense of your Majesty's goodness we acknowledge that care for the welfare of your people, and that confidence in the loyalty and affection of your faithful Commons, which your Majesty shews in the early communication your Majesty has been pleased to order of the necessary informations relative to the disturbances in America. Your reliance on the wisdom and duty of your Parliament in a matter of so great importance, and the attention shewn by your Majesty in referring to our deliberation and advice the joint concern of your Majesty's royal authority, the rights of your Parliament,
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and the happiness of your subjects, are at once objects of our highest admiration and gratitude.

It is our duty, as it shall be our care, to imitate that temper and equanimity which appear in your Majesty's conduct, by mixing with our zeal for the honour of your Majesty's government, and with our just regard for the dignity and authority of Parliament, the utmost attention to the important objects of the trade and navigation of these kingdoms, and the tenderest concern for the united interests of all your Majesty's people.

It is with inexpressible grief we are again called upon to console with your Majesty on the death of another prince of your royal family, whose amiable disposition, and whose early virtues in the first dawn of life, while they shew him worthy of the illustrious race he sprang from, must now double our regret at his untimely loss.

The general state of peace and tranquillity so happily reigning in all parts of Europe, must give the greatest satisfaction to every one who has any concern for the true interest of this country, or who feels for the general happiness of mankind.

Our assistance shall not be wanting to aid your Majesty with our advice, and to strengthen your authority for the continuation of that harmony so happily preserved by the wisdom of your Majesty's councils, and the influence of your mild auspicious government.

We assure your Majesty that we shall with the greatest cheerfulness grant your Majesty the supplies necessary for the current service of the year, having the firmest reliance on the promise your Majesty is graciously pleased to make, of seeing them duly applied with that œconomy which your own wisdom will direct, and which the circumstances of this country so strongly demand.

The unanimity and dispatch which your Majesty is pleased to recommend, we shall, from motives both of duty and inclination, endeavour to make the rule of our proceedings, being sensible that nothing can more immediately tend to add weight to the deliberations of Parliament, or efficacy to their resolutions.

And as the constant tenor of your Majesty's conduct shews that the happiness and prosperity of your people are the sole objects of your concern, we should be equally wanting in duty to our Sovereign and care for our own honour, did we a moment neglect our part in promoting all such wise and salutary measures as may tend to reflect dignity on your Majesty's government, and fix the welfare of your people on the most solid foundations.

His

His Majesty's Answer, January 19, 1766.

Gentlemen,

THE moderation and temper with which you resolve to enter into the consideration of the important affairs I have recommended to you, cannot but give me the greatest satisfaction, as from those dispositions, I entertain the fullest confidence that your wisdom will direct you to such measures as will insure the common happiness and welfare of all my dominions, which will always be the invariable objects of my care and attention.

I receive your condolence on the melancholy event of my brother's death, as a mark of your affection and loyalty.

I shall be careful that my conduct shall justify the confidence you so affectionately express, in my properly applying such supplies as you may find necessary for the public service.

Message by his Majesty to the House of Commons, June 3, 1766.

GEORGE REX.

HIS Majesty having, in consequence of the agreement mentioned in his speech at the opening of the last session of Parliament, received application from the present King of Denmark for the solemnization of his marriage with his Majesty's sister the Princess Caroline Matilda, has thought proper to inform this House that the marriage may probably be solemnized before the next session of Parliament; and as his Majesty can have no doubt that this alliance with so respectable a protestant prince will be to the satisfaction of all his good subjects, he promises himself the concurrence and assistance of this House in enabling him to give such a portion with his sister, as may be suitable to the honour and dignity of his crown.

His Majesty had intentions to have recommended at the same time to the consideration of the House, the making of some proper provision for the honourable support and maintenance of his dearly beloved brothers, the Dukes of York and Gloucester, and Prince Henry Frederick; but as the season of the year is greatly advanced, and it is necessary to grant a recess to his Parliament by a speedy conclusion of the session, his Majesty will defer the making of such recommendation until the next meeting for the dispatch of business; and is assured, from his experience of the affection of his faithful Commons to himself and his family, that they will readily and cheerfully enter into the consideration of that matter when the same shall be laid before them.

His Majesty's most gracious Speech, June 6, 1766.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

IT is with the utmost satisfaction that I have observed the wisdom and moderation which have uniformly guided you through the many important deliberations in which you have been engaged during the course of this long and interesting session of Parliament. I persuade myself that the most salutary effects must be the natural result of deliberations conducted upon such principles.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I thank you for the supplies which you have so cheerfully given for the several establishments, and for the support of public credit: and you may rest assured that no œconomy will be wanting to render them effectual for the purposes for which they were granted.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

The present general disposition of all the powers of Europe seems to indicate a continuance of peace: and it is my earnest desire to preserve the general tranquillity, by fulfilling on my part, all the engagements I am under by treaties. And on this foundation, I may reasonably hope and expect the same strict performance of those engagements which other powers are under to my crown.

The many regulations which you have made for extending and promoting the trade and manufactures of Great Britain, and for settling the mutual intercourse of my kingdoms and plantations, in such a manner as to provide for the improvement of the colonies, on a plan of due subordination to the commercial interests of the mother country, are the strongest proofs of your equitable and comprehensive regard to the welfare of all my dominions, an object truly worthy of a British Parliament.

It shall be my endeavour that such care be taken as may tend to secure and improve the advantages which may be expected from such wise and salutary provisions.

I have nothing further to recommend to you than that you will exert your best endeavours in your respective counties to enforce the execution of the laws, and to promote good manners and good order among my people, whose true and lasting happiness shall be my constant care, and upon whose affections I shall always firmly rely.

Then

Then the Lord Chancellor, by his Majesty's command, said,

My Lords and Gentlemen,

IT is his Majesty's royal will and pleasure, that this Parliament be prorogued to Saturday, the twelfth day of July next, to be then here held: and this Parliament is accordingly prorogued to Saturday, the twelfth day of July next.

His Majesty's most gracious Speech, November 11, 1766.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

THE high price of wheat and the defective produce of that grain last harvest, together with the extraordinary demands for the same from foreign parts, have principally determined me to call you thus early together, that I might have the sense of Parliament as soon as conveniently might be on a matter so important, and particularly affecting the poorer sort of my subjects.

The urgency of the necessity called upon me, in the mean time, to exert my royal authority for the preservation of the public safety against a growing calamity which could not admit of delay. I have therefore, by and with the advice of my privy council, laid an embargo on wheat and wheat flour going out of the kingdom, until the advice of Parliament could be taken thereupon.

If further provisions of law be requisite or expedient with regard to the dearth of corn, so necessary to the sustenance of the poorer sort, they cannot escape the wisdom of Parliament, to which I recommend the due consideration thereof.

At the same time I must with concern take notice, that notwithstanding my cares for my people, a spirit of the most daring insurrection has in many places broke forth in violences of the most criminal nature.

Necessary orders have been given for bringing such dangerous offenders to condign punishment and speedy justice; nor shall vigilance and vigour on my part be wanting to restore obedience and reverence to law and government.

I have the satisfaction to inform you, that since I last met you I have concluded a treaty of commerce with my good sister, the Empress of Russia, whereby that considerable branch of trade is fixed on a just and satisfactory footing.

It is with pleasure that I also acquaint you, that the marriage between my good brother, the King of Denmark, and my sister, the Princess Caroline Matilda, has been solemnized, and the

the natural alliance between the two crowns happily strengthened by an additional tie of so agreeable a nature.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I have ordered the proper estimates for the current service of the year to be laid before you.

Such supplies as you may grant shall be duly applied with the utmost fidelity and strictest regard to the objects for which they are granted.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

The general posture of affairs in Europe affords no occasion to lay any thing new before you upon that head. My purposes are constant and fixed to maintain, on my part, the public tranquillity inviolate ; and to support the dignity of my crown, and the rights of my subjects. The justice and wisdom of the other great powers of Europe leave no room to apprehend any intentions of a contrary nature.

Address by the House of Lords, Nov. 12, 1766.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Lords spiritual and temporal, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to return your Majesty our unfeigned thanks for your most gracious speech from the throne.

It is with the sincerest satisfaction that we congratulate your Majesty on the addition to your royal family by the birth of a princess royal ; ever mindful of that Divine blessing to which we owe the preservation of our religion and constitution by the succession of your illustrious house to the throne of these kingdoms, and of the happiness we, together with all your Majesty's subjects, have enjoyed under their most auspicious government.

Permit us also, Sir, to congratulate your Majesty on the solemnization of the marriage of your Majesty's sister, the Princess Caroline Matilda, with the King of Denmark, by which the natural alliance between the two crowns receives such additional strength and support.

We acknowledge, with the truest gratitude, the paternal affection and tender concern which your Majesty has shewn for your people, by laying an embargo on wheat and wheat flour, until the sense of Parliament could be taken thereon ; preventing, by this measure, the immediate and dangerous consequences which would have arisen to the public welfare, and
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more particularly, to the ease and comfort of the poorer sort of your subjects, from a scarcity of that grain.

We shall give, on our part, the most earnest attention to the consideration of every means by which the evils of scarcity may be effectually prevented ; anxious to forward the gracious and salutary purposes which your Majesty constantly manifests for the welfare of every rank of your subjects. Truly sensible of your Majesty's royal wisdom, in having given the necessary orders for bringing the offenders against the public peace to condign punishment and speedy justice, we beg leave to assure your Majesty of our resolution to pursue and maintain measures so indispensably necessary for the suppression of riot and licentiousness, and for enforcing that respect and obedience which are due to government.

We gratefully acknowledge the communication it has pleased your Majesty to make to us, of a treaty of commerce being concluded with the Empress of Russia. The security given thereby to so considerable a branch of trade, by fixing it on a just and satisfactory footing, is a fresh instance of your Majesty's constant care and concern for the commercial interests of these kingdoms.

Animated with the truest sentiments of duty, zeal, and affection, we thankfully receive the just and wise declaration of your Majesty's intentions to maintain the public tranquillity, as well as to support the dignity of the crown, and the rights of your people.

His Majesty's Answer, November 12, 1766.

My Lords,

THE sense you express of the measures which the safety of my people put me under the necessity of taking during the recess of my Parliament, affords me the highest satisfaction. I rely on your assurances, that you will consider with attention the proper means of preventing the evils of scarcity, and the necessary measures for enforcing that obedience and reverence which are due to laws and government.

Your approbation of the treaty of commerce which I have concluded with my good sister, the Empress of Russia, is extremely agreeable to me ; and I receive with particular pleasure your congratulations on the birth of my daughter the princess royal, and on the marriage of my sister, the Princess Caroline Matilda, with my good brother, the King of Denmark.

Address by the House of Commons to his Majesty, Nov. 12, 1766.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons of Great Britain, in Parliament assembled, return your Majesty our most humble thanks for your most gracious speech from the throne.

We desire your Majesty will believe, that we entertain the most grateful sense of the paternal and tender regard your Majesty has shewn for the welfare of your people, by laying an embargo on wheat and wheat flour going out of the kingdom, until your Majesty should have the advice of your Parliament on that important subject.

And we beg leave to assure your Majesty, that your faithful Commons will not fail, agreeably to your Majesty's recommendation, to take this weighty matter into our most serious consideration, in order, by timely and effectual measures, to pursue the two great ends which your Majesty's wisdom has pointed out, of providing against the many evils attending a dearth or scarcity of corn, especially to the poorer sort of your Majesty's subjects; and, at the same time, of suppressing that daring and dangerous spirit of riot, which has of late too generally shewn itself in many parts of this kingdom.

It is with the greatest satisfaction that we assure your Majesty of our unfeigned joy on the safe and happy delivery of her Majesty on the birth of a princess; every increase of your Majesty's royal family being a fresh pledge of the future liberty and happiness of your people.

And, animated with the same zeal, we most heartily congratulate your Majesty on the solemnization of the marriage of your Majesty's sister, the Princess Caroline Matilda, with the King of Denmark; by which the union with that ancient natural ally of your Majesty's crown is strengthened by a fresh tie of the most endearing kind.

We return your Majesty our very sincere thanks for your gracious communication, that a treaty of commerce had been lately concluded with the Empress of Russia; which, whilst it gives us hopes of seeing that important branch of our trade continued hereafter on a solid and advantageous footing, is a new proof of your Majesty's constant regard for the true interest of this commercial nation.

It is with the utmost cheerfulness that your Majesty's faithful Commons will grant such supplies as shall be necessary for the service of the year; having the utmost confidence in the
assurance

assurance your Majesty is pleased to give, that they will be punctually applied to those purposes for which they shall be granted.

We beg your Majesty will permit us to express our highest satisfaction on the present happy establishment of the public tranquillity; and the well-grounded hopes we entertain, from the wisdom of your Majesty's councils, and the influence of your example, that, while your Majesty wisely unites, with the resolution to support the dignity of your crown, and the rights of your people, a true zeal for the general peace and happiness of mankind, the same spirit of equity and moderation which animates your Majesty's conduct will direct the councils of the other great powers of Europe to the like just and salutary views.

His Majesty's Answer, November 14, 1766.

Gentlemen,

I RETURN you my most hearty thanks for your loyal and affectionate address. The part you take in the late happy events in my family completes the satisfaction I receive from them. I see with pleasure the continuance of that zeal and true public spirit, which I have always experienced in my faithful Commons, by your early attention to the several great objects recommended to your consideration, and particularly to the means of providing against the evils attending a scarcity of corn, and for securing the tranquillity of the country. You may depend on my invariable attention to the happiness and prosperity of my kingdom.

His Majesty's most gracious Speech, July 2, 1767.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

THE advanced season of the year, joined to the consideration of the inconvenience you must all have felt from so long an absence from your several countries, calls upon me to put an end to the present session of Parliament; which I cannot do, without returning you my thanks for your diligent application to the public business, and the proofs you have given of your affection for me, for my family, and for my government: and although, from the nature and extensiveness of the several objects under your consideration, it could not be expected that all the great commercial interests should be completely adjusted and

regulated in the course of this session, yet I am persuaded, that, by the progress you have made, a solid foundation is laid for securing the most considerable and essential benefits to this nation.

As no material alteration has happened in the state of foreign affairs since your first meeting, I have nothing to communicate to you on that subject. The fixed objects of all my measures are, to preserve the peace, and at the same time to assert and maintain the honour of my crown, and the just rights of my subjects.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I thank you for the necessary supplies which you have so cheerfully granted for the public service; and my particular acknowledgments are due to you for the provision you have enabled me to make for the more honorable support and maintenance of my family.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

The great attention which you have shewn to the particular purpose for which I called you so early together, and the very wholesome laws passed for relieving my subjects from the immediate distress which the great scarcity of corn threatened to bring upon them, give me the most sensible pleasure. I rely upon you for the exertion of your utmost endeavours to convince my people, that no care has been wanting to procure for them every relief which has been possible; and that their grateful sense of provisions, so wisely made for their present happiness and lasting prosperity, cannot be so fully expressed, as by a strict observance of that order and regularity which are equally necessary to the security of all good government, as well as to their own real welfare.

Then the Lord Chancellor, by his Majesty's command, said,

My Lords and Gentlemen,

IT is his Majesty's royal will and pleasure, that this Parliament be prorogued to Monday, the thirty-first day of August next, to be then here held: and this Parliament is accordingly prorogued to Monday, the thirty-first day of August next.

His Majesty's most gracious Speech, Nov. 24, 1767.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I HAVE chosen to call you together at this season of the year, that my Parliament might have full time for their deliberations upon all such branches of the public service as may require their immediate attention; without the necessity of continuing the session beyond the time most suitable to my people for the election of a new Parliament: and I doubt not but you will be careful, from the same considerations, to avoid in your proceedings all unnecessary delay.

Nothing in the present situation of affairs abroad gives me reason to apprehend that you will be prevented by any interruption of the public tranquillity, from fixing your whole attention upon such points as concern the internal welfare and prosperity of my people.

Among these objects of a domestic nature, none can demand a more speedy or more serious attention than what regards the high price of corn, which neither the salutary laws passed in the last session of Parliament nor the produce of the last harvest have yet been able so far to reduce as to give sufficient relief to the poorer sort of my people. Your late residence in your several countries must have enabled you to judge whether any farther provisions can be made conducive to the attainment of so desirable an end.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I will order the proper officers to lay before you the estimates for the service of the ensuing year.

The experience I have had of your constant readiness to grant me all such supplies as should be found necessary for the security, interest, and honour of the nation, (and I have no other to ask of you) renders it unnecessary for me to add any exhortations upon this head; and I doubt not but the same public considerations will induce you to persevere, with equal alacrity, in your endeavours to diminish the national debt; while on my part, no care shall be wanting to contribute, as far as possible, to the attainment of that most essential object, by every frugal application of such supplies as you shall grant.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

The necessity of improving the present general tranquillity to the greatest purpose of maintaining the strength, the reputation, and the prosperity of this country, ought to be ever before your eyes. To render your deliberations for that purpose successful,

ceessful, endeavour to cultivate a spirit of harmony among yourselves. My concurrence in whatever will promote the happiness of my people you may always depend upon ; and in that light I shall ever be desirous of encouraging union among all those who wish well to their country.

Address to his Majesty by the House of Lords, Nov. 25, 1767.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Lords spiritual and temporal, in Parliament assembled, return your Majesty our humble thanks for your most gracious speech from the throne.

We acknowledge with gratitude your Majesty's tender regard and concern for your people, in assembling the Parliament at such a season, as, whilst it provides for the convenience of your people, will allow sufficient time for our deliberations on the several branches of the public service that may require our immediate attention : and we beg leave to assure your Majesty, that it shall be our hearty desire to forward your Majesty's most gracious purpose, by avoiding in our proceedings all unnecessary delay.

We sincerely rejoice in the prospect of the continuance of the general tranquillity ; and it is our firm resolution to give, at a time so favourable for such considerations, our strictest attention to all those objects that may more immediately affect the internal welfare and happiness of your people.

We assure your Majesty, that our earnest endeavours shall not be wanting for the relief of the distresses which the poor labour under from the high price of corn, if any farther provisions can be made conducive to so desirable an end.

Permit us, Sir, to congratulate your Majesty on the safe delivery of the Queen and the birth of a prince ; and to assure your Majesty of our unfeigned joy on any increase of your domestic felicity ; at the same time that we consider every addition to your illustrious house as a further security of our religious and civil liberties.

We beg leave to condole with your Majesty on the death of his Royal Highness the Duke of York, and to testify our sincere concern for the loss of a prince, whose virtues and amiable qualities, as they distinguished his life, will ever be held in the most grateful remembrance.

Your Majesty may be assured, that being fully sensible of the necessity of improving the present tranquillity to the purpose of

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of maintaining the strength, the reputation, and prosperity of this country, we will cheerfully contribute, on our part, to the success of such measures as shall be thought most expedient for the attainment of that great end : and that, with this view, we shall endeavour to cultivate that spirit of harmony and union, which your Majesty, in your paternal care for the happiness of your people, has most graciously recommended from the throne ; and on which the success of our councils and the public welfare so essentially depend.

His Majesty's Answer, November 25, 1767.

My Lords,

YOUR readiness to provide for the public services with the unanimity and dispatch so necessary at this juncture, as well as to avail yourselves of the present general tranquillity, in order to promote the internal prosperity of my people, is highly agreeable to me ; and I rely upon your assurances, that you will use your endeavours to relieve the distresses which the poor labour under from the high price of corn.

I thank you for the joy you express on the increase of my royal family ; and I feel for the part you take in my concern for the unexpected loss of my late brother, the Duke of York.

Address by the House of Commons, Nov. 25, 1767.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons of Great Britain, in Parliament assembled, return your Majesty our most humble thanks for your most gracious speech from the throne.

We beg leave most gratefully to acknowledge your Majesty's goodness and attention to the convenience of your people, in calling your Parliament together at this time ; and to assure your Majesty, that we will endeavour to improve the opportunity which the present happy state of peace and tranquillity affords, by exerting our utmost abilities in the prosecution of such measures as may most effectually promote the public welfare and prosperity.

We are equally sensible of your Majesty's paternal care, in the measures already taken by your Majesty to alleviate the distresses of the poor, and of your royal wisdom in recommending the same interesting and important object to the consideration of your Parliament ; and we will not fail to take into our
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most attentive deliberation, all such measures as shall appear conducive to the accomplishment of that great and most desirable end.

It is with unfeigned joy that we presume to offer our congratulations to your Majesty on the late increase of your royal family by the birth of a prince; and to assure your Majesty, that we regard, as an addition to the welfare and happiness of this nation, every increase of that illustrious house, under whose mild and auspicious government our religious and civil liberties have been so happily maintained and protected.

And it is with equal grief and anxiety that we reflect on the late untimely loss of your Majesty's royal brother, the Duke of York, whose early and ready zeal in his country's cause shewed him worthy of the heroic race he sprang from; and whose amiable virtues in the more private scenes of his life must ever make his memory dear to all who had the happiness of approaching him.

We beg leave most humbly to assure your Majesty, that this House will, with a zeal and alacrity becoming the representatives of an affectionate and grateful people, readily grant such supplies as shall be requisite for the support of your Majesty's government, for advancing the honour and interest of this country, and effectually providing for the public safety :

And that our regard to your Majesty's recommendation, as well as the indispensable duty we owe to those whom we represent, will make us earnestly attentive to the great object of diminishing the national debt; being convinced that nothing can so effectually tend to add real lustre and dignity to your Majesty's government, or to give solid and permanent strength to these kingdoms.

With these views, and in these sentiments, we will endeavour, with the utmost unanimity and dispatch, to promote the public service, and to deserve, by our sincere and unwearied labours for the general good, that confidence which it has pleased your Majesty to repose in us; not doubting of your Majesty's gracious disposition to confirm and perfect what our true zeal may suggest for the lasting advantage and happiness of your people.

His Majesty's Answer, Nov. 27, 1767.

Gentlemen,

I RETURN you my very sincere thanks for your dutiful and loyal address; the part you take in the late happy event in my family completes the satisfaction which I receive from it; and your

your affection to me appears equally manifest from the share you take in the melancholy incident which we all regret, and serves as a consolation to me. I see, with pleasure, the continuance of that zeal, and true public spirit, which I have long experienced in my faithful Commons, by your attention to the several objects recommended to your consideration, and particularly to the means of providing against a scarcity of corn, and for paying the public debt. You may depend upon my invariable attention to the happiness and prosperity of my kingdom.

His Majesty's most gracious Speech, March 10, 1768.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

THE readiness with which you entered into the views I recommended to you at the opening of this session, and the assiduity with which you have applied yourselves to the dispatch of the public business, give me great satisfaction. At the same time, the affectionate concern you have shewn for the welfare of your fellow subjects, by the salutary laws passed for their relief, in respect to the high price of provisions, cannot fail of securing to you their most grateful regard.

I have nothing new to communicate to you in relation to foreign affairs. The apparent interests of the several powers in Europe, as well as the express assurances I have received from them, leave me no room to doubt of their disposition to preserve the general tranquillity. And, on my part, you may rest assured, that every measure that is consistent with the honour of my crown, and the rights of my subjects, shall be steadily directed to that most salutary purpose.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

Your cheerfulness in granting the necessary supplies, and your attention to the ease of my good subjects in the manner of raising them, equally demand my acknowledgments. I see, with pleasure, that you have been able to prosecute your plan for the diminution of the national debt, without laying any additional burden upon my people.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

As the time limited by law for the expiration of this Parliament now draws near, I have resolved forthwith to issue my proclamation for dissolving it, and for calling a new Parliament. But I cannot do this without having first returned you my thanks for the many signal proofs you have given of the most affectionate attachment to my person, family, and government,

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the most faithful attention to the public service, and the most earnest zeal for the preservation of our excellent constitution. When, by the vigorous support which you gave me during the war, I had been enabled, under the Divine Providence, to restore to my people the blessings of peace, you continued to exert yourselves, with equal alacrity and steadiness, in pursuing every measure that could contribute to the maintenance of the public safety and tranquillity, which you well understood could no otherwise be preserved, than by establishing, on a respectable foundation, the strength, the credit, and the commerce of the nation. The large supplies you have from time to time granted, and the wise regulations you have made for these important purposes, will, I am persuaded, be found to have been productive of the most beneficial consequences.

In the approaching election of representatives I doubt not but my people will give me fresh proofs of their attachment to the true interest of their country, which I shall ever receive as the most acceptable mark of their affection to me. The welfare of all my subjects is my first object. Nothing, therefore, has ever given me more real concern than to see any of them, in any part of my dominions, attempting to loosen those bonds of constitutional subordination so essential to the welfare of the whole. But it is with much satisfaction that I now see them returning to a more just sense of what their own interest, no less than their duty, indispensably requires of them, and thereby giving me the prospect of continuing to reign over an happy, because an united people.

Then the Lord Chancellor, by his Majesty's command, said,

My Lords and Gentlemen,

IT is his Majesty's royal will and pleasure, that this Parliament be prorogued to this day three weeks, the thirty-first day of this instant, March: and this Parliament is accordingly prorogued to this day three weeks, the thirty-first day of this instant, March.

Speech by the Lords Commissioners to both Houses, May 11, 1768.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

IN pursuance of the authority given us by his Majesty's commission under the great seal, amongst other things, to declare the causes of your present meeting, we are, by the King's command, to acquaint you, that his Majesty has not called you

you together at this unusual season of the year in order to lay before you any matters of general business, but merely to give you an opportunity of dispatching certain parliamentary proceedings, which his Majesty's desire of providing, at all events, for the welfare and security of his good subjects, makes him wish to see completed as soon as possible, and with that dispatch which the public convenience, as well as your own, require. His Majesty, at the same time, has commanded us to assure you of his perfect confidence in this Parliament; and that he has the strongest reason to expect every thing from their advice and assistance, that loyalty, wisdom, and zeal for the public good can dictate or suggest.

Address by both Houses to his Majesty, May 14, 1768.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Lords spiritual and temporal, and Commons, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to return your Majesty our most hearty thanks for that gracious and paternal attention to the welfare of your people, which has induced your Majesty, at this time, to interpose your own more immediate authority for putting an end to that dangerous disturbance of the public peace, those outrageous acts of violence to the property of your Majesty's subjects, and that most audacious defiance of the authority of the civil magistrates, which have of late prevailed to so alarming a degree in and near this great metropolis.

Your Majesty's express command, signified by your royal proclamation, that all the laws for preventing, suppressing, and punishing all riots, tumults, and unlawful assemblies, be put into immediate execution, will, we hope, effectually prevent the continuance or repetition of these disorders.

But should any of your Majesty's subjects continue so lost to all sense of their own true interest, as well as duty, as to go on to interrupt, by their lawless and desperate practices, that quiet and peaceable enjoyment of every right and privilege allotted to each individual among us by our excellent constitution, which it has ever been your Majesty's first object and chief glory to secure and perpetuate to us all; permit us, your Majesty's truly dutiful and grateful subjects, the Lords spiritual and temporal, and Commons, in Parliament assembled, to assure your Majesty of our ready concurrence in every measure that may contribute to enable your Majesty most effectually to maintain the public authority, and to carry the laws into due execution; and of our determined resolution most cheerfully

fully and vigorously to support your Majesty against every attempt to create difficulty or disturbance to your Majesty's government.

His Majesty's Answer, May 14, 1768.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I RECEIVE, with great satisfaction, this loyal, dutiful, and reasonable address of both Houses of Parliament. It is with the utmost concern that I see this spirit of outrage and violence prevailing among different classes of my subjects. I am, however, convinced, that the vigorous exertion of lawful authority, which I will continue to enforce, joined to your support and assistance, will have the desired effect of restoring quiet and good order among my subjects.

His Majesty's most gracious Speech, Nov. 8, 1768.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

THE opportunity which the late general election gives me of knowing, from their representatives in Parliament, the more immediate sense of my people, has made me desirous of meeting you as early as could be, consistent with your own convenience. The shortness of the last session of the late Parliament prevented their prosecuting the consideration of those great commercial interests which had been entered upon in the preceding session. You will, I am persuaded, agree with me in opinion, that your deliberations on those very important objects ought to be resumed without loss of time; and, I trust, that they will terminate in such measures as may be productive of the most considerable and essential benefits to this nation.

It would have given me great satisfaction to have been able to acquaint you, that all the other powers of Europe had been as careful as I have ever been to avoid taking any step that might endanger the general tranquillity. I have constantly received, and do still receive from them, the strongest assurances of their pacific dispositions towards this country. No assurances, however, shall divert my constant resolution steadfastly to attend to the general interests of Europe; nor shall any consideration prevail upon me to suffer any attempt that may be made derogatory to the honour and dignity of my crown, or injurious to the rights of my people.

At the close of the last Parliament I expressed my satisfaction at the appearances which then induced me to believe that such

such of my subjects as had been misled in some part of my dominions were returning to a just sense of their duty. But it is with equal concern that I have since seen that spirit of faction, which I had hoped was well nigh extinguished, breaking out afresh in some of my colonies in North America; and in one of them proceeding even to acts of violence, and of resistance to the execution of the law; the capital town of which colony appears, by late advices, to be in a state of disobedience to all law and government; and has proceeded to measures subversive of the constitution, and attended with circumstances that manifest a disposition to throw off their dependence on Great Britain. On my part I have pursued every measure that appeared to be necessary for supporting the constitution, and inducing a due obedience to the authority of the legislature. You may rely upon my steady perseverance in these purposes; and I doubt not but that, with your concurrence and support, I shall be able to defeat the mischievous designs of those turbulent and seditious persons, who, under false pretences, have but too successfully deluded numbers of my subjects in America; and whose practices, if suffered to prevail, cannot fail to produce the most fatal consequences to my colonies immediately, and, in the end, to all the dominions of my crown.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

The proper estimates for the service of the ensuing year I have ordered to be laid before you, fully relying on your readiness to grant me the necessary supplies. Indeed I cannot have a doubt of finding, in this House of Commons, the same affectionate attachment to my person and government as I have always hitherto experienced from my faithful Commons.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

It is with great satisfaction that I now find myself enabled to rejoice with you upon the relief which the poorer sort of my people are now enjoying from the distress which they had so long laboured under from the high price of corn. At the same time that we are bound devoutly to acknowledge, in this instance, the gracious interposition of Providence, it will become us to apply the best precautions that human wisdom can suggest, for guarding against the return of the late calamity. In the choice, however, of proper means for that purpose, you cannot proceed with too great circumspection.

I have nothing further to recommend to you, than, that in all your deliberations, you keep up a spirit of harmony among yourselves. Whatever differences of opinion may prevail in

other points, let it appear, that, wherever the interest of your country is immediately concerned, you are all ready to unite. Such an example from you cannot fail of having the best effects upon the temper of my people in every part of my dominions; and can alone produce that general union among ourselves, which will render us properly respected abroad, and happy at home.

Address by the House of Lords to his Majesty, November 9, 1768.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Lords spiritual and temporal, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to return your Majesty our humble thanks for your most gracious speech from the throne.

We desire, with hearts full of gratitude, to acknowledge that royal goodness, so evidently manifest to all your people by your Majesty's constant attention to the great commercial interests of this country. We should be wanting on our part, if we did not apply to the consideration of them with that alacrity which objects, so very important, and capable of producing the most essential benefits to the nation, demand of us.

The resolution which your Majesty is pleased to express, that you will not suffer any attempt to be made derogatory to the honour and dignity of your crown, or injurious to the rights of your people, does, and ever will, call from us the assurances of our most cheerful support; nor do we conceive, that any conduct can contribute more than this will, to render all the other powers of Europe as careful as your Majesty has ever been, to avoid taking any step that may endanger the general tranquillity.

We feel the most sincere concern, that any of our fellow subjects in North America should be misled, by factious and designing men, into acts of violence and of resistance to the execution of the law, attended with circumstances that manifest a disposition to throw off their dependence upon Great Britain. At the same time, that we shall be always ready to contribute to the relief of any real grievance of your Majesty's American subjects, we most unfeignedly give your Majesty the strongest assurance, that we shall ever zealously concur in support of such just and necessary measures, as may best enable your Majesty to repress that daring spirit of disobedience, and to enforce a due submission to the laws: always considering, that it is one of our most essential duties to maintain inviolate the supreme
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authority of the legislature of Great Britain over every part of the dominions of your Majesty's crown.

We thankfully adore the merciful interposition of Providence in the relief which the poorer sort of your Majesty's subjects have received, from the distress they had so long laboured under from the high price of corn. We shall apply our utmost attention to prevent, as far as in human prudence lies, the return of such a calamity; and shall give so important a subject that full consideration, which the nature of it necessarily requires.

Engaged in the deliberation of so many important matters, we beg leave to assure your Majesty, that we shall studiously endeavour, that our proceedings may testify our readiness to unite, wherever the interest of our country and our attachment to your Majesty is concerned. Happy, if by such an example the deluded part of your Majesty's subjects may be induced to return to their duty, and gratefully feel the blessings of the mildest government, and most perfect constitution.

His Majesty's Answer, November 9, 1768.

My Lords,

I RECEIVED, with great satisfaction, the assurances you give of your resolution to pursue the commercial interests of this country; and your readiness to support the honour of my crown, and the rights of my people.

Your zealous concurrence in every measure that can bring relief to my people, is well known to me; nor do I doubt of the attention that you will always give to any real grievances of my American subjects. The strong assurances I receive from you at the same time, of your determination to vindicate the just legislative authority of Parliament over all the dominions of my crown, deserve my warmest approbation.

Joint Address by both Houses of Parliament, Feb. 13, 1769.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Lords spiritual and temporal, and Commons, in Parliament assembled, return your Majesty our humble thanks for the communication your Majesty has been graciously pleased to make to your Parliament, of several papers relative to public transactions in your Majesty's province of Massachusetts Bay.

We beg leave to express to your Majesty our sincere satisfaction in the measures which your Majesty has pursued for sup

porting the constitution, and for inducing a due obedience to the authority of the legislature; and to give your Majesty the strongest assurances, that we will effectually stand by and support your Majesty in such farther measures, as may be found necessary to maintain the civil magistrates in a due execution of the laws within your Majesty's province of Massachusetts Bay: And as we conceive that nothing can be more immediately necessary, either for the maintenance of your Majesty's authority in the said province, or for guarding your Majesty's subjects therein from being farther deluded by the arts of wicked and designing men, than to proceed in the most speedy and effectual manner for bringing to condign punishment the chief authors and instigators of the late disorders; we most humbly beseech your Majesty, that you will be graciously pleased to direct your Majesty's governor of Massachusetts Bay, to take the most effectual methods for procuring the fullest information that can be obtained, touching all treasons, or misprisions of treasons, committed within his government, since the thirtieth day of December, one thousand seven hundred and sixty-seven; and to transmit the same, together with the names of the persons who were most active in the commission of such offences, to one of your Majesty's principal secretaries of state, in order that your Majesty may issue a special commission for inquiring of, hearing, and determining, the said offences within this realm, pursuant to the provisions of the statute of the thirty-fifth year of the reign of King Henry the Eighth, in case your Majesty shall, upon receiving the said information, see sufficient ground for such a proceeding.

His Majesty's Answer, Feb. 13, 1769.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

THE sincere satisfaction you express in the measures which I have already taken, and the strong assurances you give of supporting me in those which may be still necessary to maintain the just legislative authority, and the due execution of the laws, in my province of Massachusetts Bay, give me great pleasure.

I shall not fail to give those orders which you recommend as the most effectual method of bringing the authors of the late unhappy disorders in that province to condign punishment.

His Majesty's most gracious Speech, May 9, 1769.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

HAVING thought it necessary to give so early a commencement to the present session of Parliament, I am glad to find, that, by your zeal and assiduity in the dispatch of the public business, I am now enabled to relieve you from your attendance, before the season of the year is too far advanced.

I cannot put an end to the session without expressing my entire approbation of your conduct; and thanking you for that clear demonstration which your proceedings, through the whole course of the session, have afforded to all the world, of the affectionate attachment of my Parliament to my person and government, as well as of their steady adherence to the true interest of their country.

It was with much satisfaction that I observed your particular attention to those great national objects, which, at the opening of the session, I recommended to your more immediate consideration. The result of your deliberations respecting the late acquisitions in the East Indies has shewn, that you were not more attentive to the immediate benefit arising therefrom, in point of revenue, than to the securing, at all events, the permanent commercial interests of this country; and guarding against every possible discouragement to our own manufactures, and to the industry of my subjects. What more remains to be done for securing the possession of those valuable acquisitions, you will, I doubt not, proceed to provide for with all convenient dispatch at your next meeting.

The measures which I had taken, regarding the late unhappy disturbances in North America, have been already laid before you. They have received your approbation; and you have assured me of your firm support in the prosecution of them. Nothing, in my opinion, could be more likely to enable the well-disposed among my subjects in that part of the world, effectually to discourage and defeat the designs of the factious and seditious, than the hearty concurrence of every branch of the legislature in the resolution of maintaining the execution of the laws in every part of my dominions; and there is nothing I more ardently wish for, than to see it produce that good effect.

With respect to foreign affairs, my own determination, as well as the assurances given me by the other powers of Europe, continue the same, as I communicated to you at the beginning of this session. And however unsuccessful attempts have proved for preventing the unfortunate rupture, which has hap-

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pened between Russia and the Porte, I shall not fail to use my good offices towards restoring peace between those powers ; and I trust, that the calamities of war will not extend to any other part of Europe.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

My particular thanks are due to you, as well for the supplies which you have granted me for the services of the current year, as for the provision which you have made, for enabling me to discharge the debt incurred upon account of my civil government. Your readiness in relieving me from the difficulties increasing upon me from the continuance of that debt, I shall ever consider as an additional motive for me to endeavour to confine the expenses of my civil government within such bounds, as the honour of my crown can possibly admit.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

It gives me great concern to be obliged to recommend to you, with more than ordinary earnestness, that you would all, in your several countries, exert your utmost efforts for the maintenance of public peace, and of good order, among my people. You must be sensible, that whatever obstructs, in any degree, the regular execution of the laws, or weakens the authority of the magistrate, must lessen the only security which my people can have for the undisturbed enjoyment of their rights and liberties. From your endeavours in this common cause, I promise myself the most salutary effect. On my part, no countenance or support shall be wanting : for as I ever made, and ever shall make, our excellent constitution the rule of my own conduct, so shall I always consider it as equally my duty to exert every power with which that constitution has intrusted me, for preserving it safe from violation of every kind ; being fully convinced that, in so doing, I shall most effectually provide for the true interest and happiness of my people.

Then the Lord Chancellor, by his Majesty's command, said,

My Lords and Gentlemen,

IT is his Majesty's royal will and pleasure, that this Parliament be prorogued to Wednesday, the fourteenth of June next, to be then here held : and this Parliament is accordingly prorogued to Wednesday, the fourteenth day of June next.

His Majesty's most gracious Speech, January 9, 1770.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

IT is with much concern that I find myself obliged to open this session of Parliament with acquainting you, that the distemper among the horned cattle has lately broke out in this kingdom, notwithstanding every precaution that could be used for preventing the infection from foreign parts. Upon the first notice of its actual appearance, my next attention was to endeavour to stop, if possible, its farther progress: and, as the success of those endeavours must, in all probability, have been entirely defeated by any the least degree of delay in the application of them, I thought it absolutely necessary, with the advice of my privy council, to give immediate directions for every step to be taken, that appeared most capable of checking the instant danger of the spreading of the infection, until I could have an opportunity of consulting my Parliament upon some more permanent measures for securing us against so great a calamity: and to your immediate and most serious consideration I earnestly recommend this very important object.

I have given my Parliament repeated assurances, that it has always been my fixed purpose to preserve the general tranquillity; maintaining, at the same time, the dignity and honour of my crown, together with the just rights and interests of my people. The uncommon burdens which my subjects have borne so cheerfully, in order to bring the late war to a happy conclusion, must be an additional motive to make me vigilant to prevent the present disturbances in Europe from extending to any part where the security, honour, or interest of this nation may make it necessary for my crown to become a party. The assurances which I receive from the other great powers afford me reason to believe that my endeavours will continue to be successful. I shall still make the general interests of Europe the object of my attention; and while I steadily support my own rights, I shall be equally careful not to acknowledge the claims of any other powers, contrary to the limitations of the late treaties of peace.

It is needless for me to recommend to the serious attention of my Parliament the state of my government in America. I have endeavoured, on my part, by every means, to bring back my subjects there to their duty, and to a due sense of lawful authority. It gives me much concern to inform you, that the success of my endeavours has not answered my expectations; and that in some of my colonies many persons have embarked in

measures highly unwarrantable, and calculated to destroy the commercial connection between them and the mother country.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I have ordered the proper estimates for the service of the current year to be laid before you. I am persuaded that your affection for my person and government, and your zeal for the public good will induce you to grant such supplies as are necessary; and you may be assured that on my part they shall be managed with the strictest œconomy.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

As the welfare and prosperity of my people have always been the object of my wishes, and the rule of my actions; so I am persuaded, from my experience of your conduct, that you will be governed in your proceedings by the same principles. My ready concurrence and support in every measure that may serve to promote those ends, you may always depend upon. On you it will be now more than ever incumbent most carefully to avoid all heats and animosities amongst yourselves, and to cultivate that spirit of harmony which becomes those who have but one common object in their view, and which may be most likely to give authority and efficacy to the result of your deliberations. Such a conduct on your part, will, above all things, contribute to maintain in their proper lustre, the strength, the reputation, and the prosperity of this country, to strengthen the attachment of my subjects to that excellent constitution of government, from which they derive such distinguished advantages; and to cause the firm reliance and confidence which I have in the wisdom of my Parliament, as well as in their zeal for the true interest of my people, to be justified and approved both at home and abroad.

Address by the House of Lords to his Majesty, Jan. 10, 1770.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Lords spiritual and temporal, in Parliament assembled, return your Majesty our humble thanks for your most gracious speech from the throne.

We beg leave to assure your Majesty that it is with the greatest concern we have understood that the distemper among the horned cattle has lately broke out in this kingdom. We desire to express our gratitude for your Majesty's paternal care and

and attention to the welfare of your people, in the steps which it has pleased your Majesty to take, with the advice of your privy council, to check the instant danger of the spreading of the distemper, upon the first notice of its appearance; and to assure your Majesty that we will immediately enter into the most serious consideration of this very important object, and will exert our utmost endeavours in taking such effectual measures as may secure us against so great a calamity.

We return your Majesty our thanks for the repeated assurances your Majesty has been pleased to give us, of your fixed purpose to preserve the peace, maintaining at the same time, the dignity of your crown, and the interests of your people. We have a dutiful sense of your Majesty's provident attention to prevent the necessity of involving your subjects in fresh difficulties, after the great burdens to which they have so cheerfully submitted, in order to bring the late war to a happy conclusion; and we have great satisfaction in finding that the assurances given to your Majesty by the other great powers of Europe afford reason to believe that without prejudice either to the honour of your crown, the rights of your people, or the general interests of Europe, it may still be in your Majesty's power to continue to your subjects the farther enjoyment of the blessings of peace.

We assure your Majesty that we will take into our most serious consideration the state of your government in America. We beg leave to express our utmost concern, that the success of your Majesty's endeavours to bring back your subjects there to a due sense of lawful authority, have not answered your Majesty's expectations. We shall be ready to give every assistance in our power for rendering effectual those your Majesty's gracious intentions, and for discountenancing those unwarrantable measures practised in some of your Majesty's colonies, which appear calculated to destroy the commercial connection between them and the mother country.

We think it our duty to assure your Majesty, that we are thoroughly sensible that the welfare of your people has ever been the object of your wishes, and the rule of all your actions; and that we will endeavour to deserve the favourable opinion which your Majesty is graciously pleased to express, of our being governed by the same principles: that we have a perfect reliance on your Majesty's promised support in such measures as may serve to promote those ends. That as it is peculiarly incumbent on us at present to avoid heats and animosities among ourselves, so we shall endeavour to cultivate that harmony which is so necessary to the common cause, and which alone can render our deliberations respectable and effectual; being
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fully persuaded that such a conduct on our part must greatly contribute to the happiness and prosperity of this country, and to establish a due sense of the very distinguished advantages of our happy constitution, as well as a firm attachment to it, and must justify, both at home and abroad, your Majesty's gracious confidence in the wisdom of your Parliament, and in their zeal for the true interests of your people.

His Majesty's Answer, January 10, 1770.

My Lords,

I THANK you for this affectionate and loyal address. Your resolution to enter immediately into the consideration of such measures as may best secure us against the spreading of the distemper among the horned cattle, affords me great satisfaction.

I have strong reliance on your determination to give me every assistance in your power to support my government in America.

Your assurances of duty and loyalty towards me, and your resolution to cultivate harmony among yourselves, give me very sincere pleasure.

Address by both Houses to his Majesty, March 23, 1770.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and faithful subjects, the Lords spiritual and temporal, and Commons of Great Britain, in Parliament assembled, having taken into consideration the address lately presented to your Majesty, under the title of "The humble Address, Remonstrance, and Petition of the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Livery of the City of London, in Common Hall assembled," together with the answer which your Majesty was pleased to make to the same; think ourselves indispensably obliged upon this occasion, to express to your Majesty the extreme concern and indignation which we feel at finding that an application has been made to your Majesty, in terms so little conforming with that grateful and affectionate respect which your Majesty is so justly intitled to from all your subjects; and at the same time aspersing and calumniating one of the branches of the legislature, and expressly denying the legality of the present Parliament, and the validity of its proceedings.

To present petitions to the throne has at all times been the undoubted right of the subjects of this realm. The free enjoyment

ment of that right was one of the many blessings restored by the Revolution, and continued to us in its fullest extent under the princes of your Majesty's illustrious house: and as we are duly sensible of its value and importance, it is with the deepest concern that we now see the exercise of it so grossly perverted by being applied to the purpose not of preserving, but of overturning the constitution; and of propagating doctrines which, if generally adopted, must be fatal to the peace of the kingdom, and which tend to the subversion of all lawful authority.

Your Majesty, we acknowledge with gratitude, has ever shewn the most tender regard to the rights of your people, not only in the exercise of your own power, but in your care to preserve from every degree of infringement or violation the powers intrusted to others. And we beg leave to return your Majesty our unfeigned thanks for the fresh proof you have now given us of your determination to persevere in your adherence to the principles of the constitution.

Permit us also to assure your Majesty, that it is with the highest satisfaction we see your Majesty expressing so just a confidence in your people. In whatever unjustifiable excesses some few misguided persons may in this instance have been induced to join, your Majesty's subjects in general are too sensible of what they owe both to your Majesty and to your illustrious family, ever to be capable of approaching your Majesty with any other sentiments than those of the most entire respect and affection; and they understand too well their own true interests to wish to loosen the bands of obedience to the laws, and of due subordination to lawful authority. We are therefore fully persuaded that your Majesty's people, as well as your Parliament, will reject with disdain every insidious suggestion of those ill-designing men who are in reality undermining the public liberty, under the specious pretence of zeal for its preservation; and that your Majesty's attention to maintain the liberties of your subjects inviolated, which you esteem your chief glory, will upon every occasion prove the sure means of strength to your Majesty, and to secure to you that zealous and effectual support which none but a free people can bestow.

His Majesty's Answer, March 23, 1770.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I RETURN you my thanks for this very loyal and dutiful address. It is with great satisfaction that I receive from my Parliament so grateful an acknowledgment of my tender regard for the rights of my subjects. Be assured that I shall continue

to adhere to the true principles of our excellent constitution, from which I cannot deviate, without justly forfeiting the affections of a free people.

His Majesty's most gracious Speech, May 19, 1770.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

THE season of the year, and the dispatch you have given to the public business, make it proper for me to put an end to this session of Parliament.

The temper with which you have conducted all your proceedings has given me great satisfaction, and I promise myself the happiest effects from the firmness, as well as the moderation, which you have manifested in the very critical circumstances which have attended your late deliberations.

With respect to foreign affairs I have nothing material to communicate to you. I will continue my endeavours to appease, if possible, the troubles which still prevail in some parts of Europe; or, at least, to prevent them from spreading farther. In all events it shall be my first and constant care to watch over the interests, and to preserve, undiminished, the rights of my people.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I return you my thanks for the supplies you have so cheerfully granted for the service of the current year, as well as for your attention to make use of every opportunity of reducing the national debt. The provision you have been able to make in this session for discharging to considerable a sum, without laying any further burden on my subjects, cannot but be highly advantageous to public credit.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I must earnestly recommend to you to exert, in your respective counties, the same zeal and prudence that you have shewn in Parliament for promoting the peace and the welfare of the kingdom. Nothing can be so favourable to the wishes of those who look with jealousy on the strength and prosperity of this country, as the prevalence of animosities and dissensions amongst ourselves. Let it therefore be your care to discountenance every attempt to inspire groundless suspicions and discontent into the minds of your fellow subjects. Make them sensible of my constant attention to promote their happiness; and convince them that nothing can so effectually secure their liberties

liberties as the maintenance of every part of our excellent constitution in its due force and authority.

Then the Speaker of the House of Lords, by his Majesty's command, said,

My Lords and Gentlemen,

IT is his Majesty's royal will and pleasure, that this Parliament be prorogued to Thursday, the nineteenth day of July next, to be then here held: and this Parliament is accordingly prorogued to Thursday, the nineteenth day of July next.

His Majesty's most gracious Speech, Nov. 13, 1770.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

WHEN I last met you in Parliament I renewed to you the assurances which I had before given you, that it was my fixed purpose to preserve the general tranquillity, maintaining, at the same time the honour of my crown, together with the just rights and interests of my people; and it was with much satisfaction, that I indulged the hope of being still able to continue to my subjects the enjoyments of peace with honour and security. Since that time, those very considerations which I then promised you that I would never sacrifice, even to the desire of peace, have laid me under an indispensable necessity of preparing for a different situation.

By the act of the governor of Buenos Ayres, in seizing by force one of my possessions, the honour of my crown, and the security of my people's rights, were become deeply affected. Under these circumstances I did not fail to make an immediate demand from the court of Spain of such satisfaction as I had a right to expect for the injury I had received. I directed also the necessary preparations to be made, without loss of time, for enabling me to do myself justice, in case my requisition to the court of Spain should fail of procuring it to me: and these preparations, you may be assured, I shall not think it expedient to discontinue, until I shall have received a proper reparation for the injury, as well as satisfactory proof that other powers are equally sincere with myself in the resolution to preserve the general tranquillity of Europe. In the mean time I have called you together thus early, in order that I may be able to receive from you such advice and assistance, as, in the further progress of this very important business, may happen to become requisite.

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With respect to the state of my colonies in North America, although I have the satisfaction to acquaint you that the people, in most of them, have begun to depart from those combinations which were calculated to distress the commerce of this kingdom; yet, in some parts of the colony of the Massachusetts Bay, very unwarrantable practices are still carried on, and my good subjects oppressed by the same lawless violence which has too long prevailed in that province.

I hope and trust, that the precautions which have already been used for securing this country against the visitation of that fatal calamity which has of late appeared in some of the distant parts of Europe, will, with the blessing of God, prove successful: but if, from any alteration of circumstances, it should at any time be found that farther provisions will be wanted, I cannot doubt of your ready concurrence for so salutary a purpose.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I will order the proper estimates for the service of the ensuing year to be laid before you. They must unavoidably, in our present situation, exceed the usual amount. Every unnecessary expense my concern for the ease of my good subjects will ever make me careful to avoid. But I should neither consult their interest, nor their inclination, if I were to decline any expense which the public security, or the maintenance of the national honour, does at any time require.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I am sensible how little I need say to you, at this time, to prevail upon you to unite in whatever may best promote the true interest of your country. In all your deliberations, upon points of a domestic nature, let the extension of our commerce, the improvement of the revenue, and the maintenance of order and good government, be always in your view. With respect to foreign measures, there will, I am persuaded, be no other contest among you, than who shall appear most forward in the support of the common cause, in upholding the reputation, and promoting the prosperity of the kingdom. For the attainment of these ends, you shall ever find me ready to exert myself to the utmost. I have no interest, I can have none, distinct from that of my people.

Address by the House of Lords to his Majesty, Nov. 14, 1770.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Lords spiritual and temporal, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to return your Majesty our humble thanks for your most gracious speech from the throne.

We beg leave to offer your Majesty our very sincere congratulations on the safe and happy delivery of the Queen, and the birth of a princess; and to assure your Majesty of our unfeigned joy at the increase of your domestic happiness; and that we consider every addition to your illustrious House, from which these kingdoms have received the most important benefits, as a farther security to our religious and civil liberties.

We are too sensible of the blessing of peace not to feel the greatest concern at any event which threatens to interrupt its continuance, and defeat your Majesty's wise and gracious purpose to maintain it. But, grateful as we are for this proof of your Majesty's paternal regard to the repose and happiness of your people, we owe your Majesty no less thanks for your anxious vigilance over the honour of your crown, and the interests of your people.

We return your Majesty our most thankful acknowledgments, as well for the immediate demand which your Majesty has been pleased to make from the court of Spain of satisfaction for the injury received, as for the instant preparations that your Majesty made to do yourself justice, in case your requisition should fail of procuring it. And we are exceedingly happy to be assured, that your Majesty will think it expedient to continue prepared to assert the honour of your crown, and the security of the rights of your people, upon an event so deeply affecting both, until the injury shall be properly repaired, and satisfactory proof be given of the sincere resolution of other powers to preserve the general tranquillity of Europe. We, on our part, beg leave to assure your Majesty, that we will not fail to make the utmost efforts in our power to maintain objects so justly dear to us, as the dignity of your Majesty's crown, and the security of the national rights.

We are very happy to be informed, that the people in most of your Majesty's colonies in North America are departing from those combinations which were calculated to distress the commerce of this kingdom; and we hope soon to see an entire end of those unwarrantable practices which have so long oppressed your Majesty's subjects in one of those provinces.

We

We are highly sensible of your Majesty's goodness and care in taking such precautions to secure this country against the visitation of that fatal calamity which has of late appeared in some of the distant parts of Europe ; and we shall always be ready to concur in any measures that shall be found necessary to the support of your Majesty's endeavours for so salutary a purpose.

We have the most grateful sense of your Majesty's favourable opinion of our constant endeavours to promote the true interest of this country. We will, in all our deliberations upon points of a domestic nature, exert ourselves for the extension of our commerce, the improvement of the revenue, and the maintenance of order and government : and we flatter ourselves, that your Majesty will not be disappointed in the gracious expectations you have formed of our zeal in the support of your Majesty's crown, and the reputation and prosperity of your kingdoms.

His Majesty's Answer, November 14, 1770.

My Lords,

IT gives me great satisfaction to find that you entertain so just a sense of the importance of peace, while that desirable object can be maintained consistently with the honour of my crown, and the rights of my people. You may depend upon my best endeavours to preserve that inestimable blessing, so long as it is compatible with objects still more essential to the happiness and prosperity of my kingdoms.

The affectionate part you take in the happy delivery of the Queen, and the increase of my family, gives me much pleasure.

His Majesty's most gracious Speech, May 8, 1771.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

AS the state of the public business no longer requires your attendance, I think it right, at this season of the year, to put an end to the present session of Parliament.

The satisfaction I have obtained from his Catholic Majesty for the injury I had received, together with the proofs which the courts of France and Spain have given me, by laying aside their arms, of their sincere disposition to preserve the general tranquillity of Europe, have enabled me to reduce my forces by sea and land. The zeal with which you have exerted yourselves, upon the apprehension of a rupture with Spain, must

must convince the world of your affectionate attachment to me, and of your constant regard for the true interests of your country. On that support I shall always rely for the defence of my honour, and for the security of the rights of my people.

With regard to the troubles which still agitate some parts of the continent, my endeavours have never been wanting to bring them to an end; and in those endeavours you may be assured I shall persevere.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

It was with real concern that I found myself called upon by the situation of public affairs, to ask of my faithful Commons more than ordinary supplies for the service of the current year; and I cannot sufficiently thank you for the unanimity, cheerfulness, and public spirit with which they have been granted.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

While we acknowledge the goodness of divine Providence in preserving us from those calamities with which some parts of Europe have been afflicted, let me exhort you to employ your best endeavours, in your several stations and countries, to render the national happiness complete, by discouraging and suppressing all groundless suspicions and domestic disturbances. I have no other object, and I can have no other interest, than to reign in the hearts of a free and happy people: and it is my earnest wish, that my subjects may not be prevented, by any mistakes or animosities amongst themselves, from enjoying, in the fullest extent, the blessings of a mild and legal government. The support of our excellent constitution is our common duty and interest: by that standard I would wish my people to try all public principles and professions; and to look upon those as their most dangerous enemies, who, under any pretence whatsoever, would persuade them to violate those laws, and undermine that authority which the constitution has provided for the purpose of preserving the general liberty and happiness.

Then the Lord Chancellor, by his Majesty's command, said,

My Lords and Gentlemen,

IT is his Majesty's royal will and pleasure, that this Parliament be prorogued to Tuesday, the twenty-third day of July next, to be then here held: and this Parliament is accordingly prorogued to Tuesday, the twenty-third day of July next.

His Majesty's most gracious Speech, Jan. 21, 1772.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

IT gives me much satisfaction that nothing in the situation of our affairs, either foreign or domestic, has oblig'd me to require your attendance earlier than might have been consistent with your private convenience; and that, now you are met together, you will find yourselves at liberty to give your whole attention to the establishment of wise and useful regulations of law, and to the extension of our commercial advantages.

The performance of the engagement of the King of Spain in the restitution of Port Egmont and Falkland's Island, and the repeated assurances I have received of the pacific disposition of that court, as well as of other powers, promise to my subjects the continuance of peace; and we may, with the greater confidence, hope, that we shall not be disturb'd in the enjoyment of this blessing, as there is no reason to apprehend that we shall become involved in the troubles which still unhappily prevail in one part of Europe.

The danger of the farther spreading of the infectious sickness in Europe is, I trust, very much abated; but I must recommend it to you, not to suffer our happiness in having been hitherto preserv'd from so dreadful a calamity, to lessen your vigilance in the use of every reasonable precaution for our safety.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I have order'd the estimates for the service of the current year to be laid before you. I make no doubt but you will see the propriety of maintaining a respectable establishment of my naval forces. I am pleas'd, however, to find, that I shall be under no necessity of asking of you at this time any extraordinary aid.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

The concerns of this country are so various and extensive as to require the most vigilant and active attention; and some of them, as well from remoteness of place as from other circumstances, are so peculiarly liable to abuses and expos'd to danger, that the interposition of the legislature for their protection may become necessary. If in any such instances, either for supplying defects or remedying abuses, you shall find it requisite to provide any new laws, you may depend upon my ready concurrence in whatever may best contribute to the attainment of those salutary ends.

Address

Addrefs to his Majesty, by the House of Lords, Jan. 22, 1772.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Lords spiritual and temporal, in Parliament assembled, return your Majesty our humble thanks for your most gracious speech from the throne.

Permit us, Sir, to offer your Majesty our most dutiful congratulations on the happy event of the increase of your royal family, by the birth of another prince, and to assure your Majesty, that every addition to your Majesty's domestic happiness must always afford the highest satisfaction to your faithful subjects.

We beg leave to express to your Majesty our most grateful sense of your Majesty's regard for our private convenience in not commanding us to an earlier attendance, and to declare to your Majesty our determination to give our most diligent attention to the promotion of the domestic interests of these kingdoms, and the extension of our commercial advantages, by the establishment of useful regulations of law.

We return your Majesty our humble thanks for your goodness and clemency, in acquitting us from the throne with the restitution of Port Egmont and Falkland's Island, on the part of the King of Spain, and with the assurances your Majesty has received of the pacific disposition of foreign powers. We are made happy by learning, that your Majesty has no reason to apprehend that the peace which we at present enjoy will be disturbed by our being anywise involved in the calamities of war, which still unhappily prevail in one part of Europe.

Your Majesty's paternal care, in recommending to us a due vigilance in the use of every precaution to protect this country from that most dreadful contagion, from which, under the divine Providence, it has been hitherto our happiness to remain free, calls for our sincerest acknowledgments, and commands our utmost attention.

We beg leave to assure your Majesty, that our most diligent endeavours shall be employed to frame such laws, as shall, in our judgment, tend to supply the defects and remedy the abuses which may appear to have been introduced in any branch of the various and extensive concerns of this country: and we look upon your Majesty's gracious assuance of your ready concurrence in whatever may best contribute to the attainment of

those salutary ends, as a fresh proof of that desire which has constantly been shewn by your Majesty to promote the welfare of your people.

His Majesty's Answer, January 12, 1772.

My Lie

I THANK you for this loyal and dutiful address. I receive with pleasure the congratulations on the increase of my family, and the assurances of the attention you will give to those objects which I have recommended to you for the public good. Nothing could be more acceptable to me than the sense you express of my desire to promote the welfare of my people.

All is told, Majesty by the House of Commons, Jan. 23, 1772.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WH, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons of Great Britain, in Parliament assembled, return you Majesty our humble thanks for your most gracious speech from the throne.

It is with an increased joy we beg leave to offer to your Majesty our congratulations on the birth of a third prince, and the happy recovery of the Queen, who is still more endearing to this nation by every new pledge of security for the happiness we enjoy under your Majesty's auspicious government, and we admire your Majesty's admirable virtues.

We return you Majesty our warmest thanks for your declaration of the assurances your Majesty has received from the King of Spain, as well as from the power of the empire, to maintain the public tranquillity, and we cannot but be the more cheerful spectators at the happy prospect which those assurances, and the performance of his Majesty's engagements, by the restitution of Port Liscoy and Falkland Islands, and your Majesty's forbearance of the continuance of peace, the sure there will be the greatest confidence that can be derived to this nation from the moderation and magnanimity in Majesty's conduct, will continue to preserve your Majesty's dominions from the calamities of war, which still unhappily prevail in the distant parts of Europe.

We acknowledge with gratitude your Majesty's paternal care in the precautions your Majesty has taken to preserve this kingdom from the intestine dangers with which we have of late been alarmed, and though we have the satisfaction to find
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that, by the blessing of Providence, the danger of its spreading is now diminished, we will not be negligent on our part in taking such measures as may from time to time appear best calculated to secure this nation from the visitation of so dreadful an evil.

Your Majesty's faithful Commons will cheerfully grant to your Majesty such supplies as shall be found necessary for the service of the current year, and we will be careful to make sufficient provision for the establishment of a respectable naval force, on which, we are truly sensible, the security as well as the importance of this nation must principally depend.

We assure your Majesty, that we will not fail, during this season of tranquillity, to employ our time in making such provisions as may be found necessary for the improvement of our laws, and the extension of our commerce; and your Majesty may rely on our vigilant and active attention to those important concerns recommended to us by your Majesty; and wherever it shall be found that with respect to any of these, either from the remoteness of their situation from the seat of government, or from other circumstances, such abuses prevail as expose them to danger, we shall think it our duty to endeavour, by every regulation in our power, to remedy those evils, which may in their consequences so essentially affect the interest and honour of this country.

Resolved by the House of Commons, Feb. 10, 1772.

Nem. con.

THAT an humble address be presented to his Majesty to express our just and deep concern at the great loss which his Majesty has sustained by the death of the Princess Dowager of Wales, and to condole with his Majesty on this melancholy occasion; and to assure his Majesty that his faithful Commons most sincerely interest themselves in every event that so nearly affects him, and will, as far as in them lies, with the warmest gratitude, and most affectionate attachment to his royal person, endeavour to alleviate every care that may disturb his domestic happiness.

lieve, that this nation will not be disturbed in the enjoyment of the blessings of peace.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I thank you heartily for the supplies which you have granted with so much cheerfulness and dispatch, and for the ample provision you have made for every branch of the public service: and I feel with pleasure and approbation, that you have at the same time been able, by a proper disposition of the public money, to make a further progress in reducing the national debt.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I make no doubt but that you will carry into your respective countries the true principle, and the same zeal for the public good, which I have experienced from you in Parliament; and that you will continue to exert your best endeavours to cultivate and improve a spirit of harmony and confidence amongst all ranks of my faithful subjects: let it be your constant care to convince them, that without a due reverence for the laws, and a cheerful obedience to just authority, neither their civil nor religious rights and liberties can be enjoyed in comfort or security; and to advise them, that I consider their interests as inseparably connected with my own, and that I am, and have ever been, persuaded that the prosperity and glory of my reign must depend on my possessing the affection, and maintaining the happiness of my people.

Then the Lord Chancellor, by his Majesty's command, said,

My Lord and Gentlemen,

It is his Majesty's royal will and pleasure, that this Parliament be prorogued to Tuesday the 11th day of August next, to be then here held; and this Parliament is accordingly prorogued to Tuesday the 11th day of August next.

His Majesty's most excellent Speech, Nov. 26, 1772.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I SHOULD most willingly have consulted your private convenience by allowing you a longer recess from business, if I had not thought that some very important parts of the public service required the immediate attention of Parliament.

It is impossible that I can ever look with indifference upon whatever concerns either the commerce and revenue of the

kingdom at large, or the private rights and interests of considerable numbers among my people; neither can I be insensible how materially every one of these great objects must be interested in the maintenance of the credit and prosperity of the East India Company. When, therefore, I received information of the difficulties in which that Company appear to be involved, I determined to give you an early opportunity of informing yourselves fully of the true state of their affairs; and of making such provisions for the common benefit and security of all the various interests concerned, as you shall find best adapted to the exigencies of the case.

I have the satisfaction to acquaint you, that there is reason to hope, that the war, which has so long unhappily prevailed in one part of Europe, is now drawing to a conclusion: and although there was no probability of our being involved therein, yet the discontinuance of those troubles will afford a fairer prospect of the duration of peace; which, I trust, the alterations which have happened in Europe will not, in their consequences, affect.

I continue to receive, from foreign powers, the strongest assurances of their pacific dispositions towards this country. and it shall be my constant endeavour to preserve the general tranquillity, as far as is consistent with the honour of my crown, and the interests of my people.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

It gives me much satisfaction, that the continuance of peace has enabled me to proceed in the reduction of the establishment of my naval forces; but you will, I am confident, agree with me, that a considerable strength at sea must be ever necessary for preserving the reputation and power of my kingdoms.

The proper estimates for the ensuing year shall be laid before you; and whatever supplies you may grant, shall on my part be managed with the strictest economy, and applied with the utmost fidelity.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I cannot but feel the most real concern, that the produce of the late harvest has not given us the relief which we had hoped for in respect to the dearth of corn. As far as human wisdom can provide for alleviating the distresses of the poor, I am persuaded your attention will not be wanting; and you cannot gratify me more, than by calling upon me for my concurrence in whatever may contribute to the true welfare and happiness of all my people.

Address

Address by the House of Lords to his Majesty, Nov. 26, 1772.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Lords spiritual and temporal, in Parliament assembled, return our humble and most unfeigned thanks to your Majesty for your most gracious speech from the throne.

We gratefully acknowledge your Majesty's goodness in the gracious assurances we have received, that your Majesty would have consulted our private convenience, if some very interesting public concerns had not required the early meeting of Parliament.

Your Majesty may be assured that we will apply ourselves diligently to whatever may concern the commerce or revenue of the kingdom, or the rights and interests of any part of your Majesty's subjects: that we are thoroughly convinced the affairs of the East India Company deserve and require our most serious consideration: and that we will not neglect an object of such national importance.

Permit us, Sir, to express the happiness we feel at having reason to hope, from the communication your Majesty has been pleased to make to us, that the war, which has so long prevailed in one part of Europe, is drawing to a conclusion. A happiness that is greatly increased, by the additional prospect it affords of the duration of peace; which, we trust, the alterations that have happened in Europe will not, in their consequences, affect: being ever firmly persuaded, that your Majesty's uniform endeavour to preserve the general tranquillity will be directed on all occasions, by a due regard to the honour of your crown, and the interests of your people.

With hearts deeply affected, we learn that the produce of the late harvest has not given the relief so essentially necessary to the poorer sort of your Majesty's subjects; and, conscious that we can do no act so acceptable to your Majesty, as exerting our utmost efforts to contribute to the ease and comfort of all your people, we beg leave to assure your Majesty, that this object, which your paternal care and tenderness have so particularly pointed out, shall engage our utmost attention.

His Majesty's most gracious Answer.

My Lords,

I THANK you for this dutiful and affectionate address. The zeal you express in it for the honour of my crown, and the rights and interests of my people, gives me the highest satisfaction.

I firmly rely that all your deliberations will tend to such measures as shall be most conducive to the great objects you have before you. Among these, I am sure, you will not forget to provide for the distresses of the poor, as far as it is in the power of human wisdom to alleviate them.

Address by the House of Commons to his Majesty, Nov. 26, 1772.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons of Great Britain, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to return your Majesty our humble thanks for your most gracious speech in the throne.

We acknowledge, with the warmest gratitude, your Majesty's great goodness, in your constant attention to whatever concerns either the commerce and revenue of your kingdom at large, or the private riches and interests of considerable numbers among your people. And we return our most dutiful thanks to your Majesty, for having given us an early opportunity of informing ourselves of the state of the affairs of the East India Company; and we assure your Majesty, that, impressed with a due sense of the great importance of the business, we will, without delay, proceed to the consideration of it, and endeavour to provide, in the most effectual manner that the nature of the case will admit, for the common benefit and security of all the great and weighty interests recommended to our care by your Majesty.

Your faithful Commons cannot but rejoice to hear that your Majesty has reason to hope that the war, which has so long unhappily prevailed in our part of Europe, is now drawing to a conclusion; and that the favourable prospect of the duration of peace which the probability of this event affords us, will not be affected by the animations which have lately happened: and we feel the highest satisfaction at the assurances which your Majesty continues to receive from foreign powers, of
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their pacific dispositions towards this country; and at the same time we most gratefully acknowledge your Majesty's gracious declaration, that it will be your constant endeavour to preserve the general tranquillity, as far as is consistent with the honour of your crown, and the interests of your people.

Your Majesty may be assured, that your faithful Commons will cheerfully grant such supplies as the services of the ensuing year shall require: and although we are convinced, that it must ever be for the interest and reputation of this country to have a considerable strength at sea, yet we learn with much satisfaction, that your Majesty has been enabled, during the course of this year, to proceed in the reduction of your naval establishment.

Permit us to offer to your Majesty our most humble and unfeigned thanks, for the paternal and affectionate concern which your Majesty has expressed for the distresses which the poor continue to suffer from the dearth of corn; and we assure your Majesty, that a diligent attention shall not be wanting on our part to consider on the most proper means for preventing the increase of the evil; and for alleviating the present distresses, as far as they are in their nature capable of relief; being persuaded that we cannot render any service more acceptable to your Majesty, than by contributing to the happiness of all your people.

His Majesty's Answer, Nov. 26, 1772.

Gentlemen,

I RETURN you my hearty thanks for this very dutiful address.

The assurances you give me, of your resolution to enter into the most diligent consideration of the important affairs which I have recommended to you, afford me great satisfaction; and I have the fullest confidence that you will endeavour, as far as lies in your power, to alleviate the distresses of my people, who are the constant objects of my care and affection.

His Majesty's most gracious Speech, July 1, 1773.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I CANNOT close this session without assuring you, that I have observed, with much satisfaction, the zeal, assiduity, and perseverance, with which you have applied yourselves to the

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the very important business which, at the meeting of Parliament, I recommended to your particular attention: and I hope and trust, that the laws which have been the result of your deliberations, will be found to answer the salutary purposes for which they were intended.

The continuance of the war between Russia and the Porte, with both of whom I am closely connected in friendship, although under no engagement to either, gives me great concern. But from the pacific dispositions of other powers, I have reason to hope that those troubles will extend no further. I shall persevere in my earnest endeavours to preserve the general tranquillity of Europe, at the same time it shall be the constant object of my care to be sufficiently prepared against any event which may affect the honour, safety, or interest of my kingdoms.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I return you my hearty thanks, for the supplies which you have granted me with so much cheerfulness: and I see with pleasure, that, notwithstanding the ample provision which you have made for every branch of the public service, and the effectual relief and support which you have afforded to the East India Company, you have been able to make some progress in reducing the national debt.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

The experience I have had of your attention to the public good, and of your attachment to me, convinces me, that you will, in your several stations, use your utmost endeavours to assist me in promoting the happiness of my people. I have no other object but their welfare; and no other view, but to employ the powers with which I am intrusted in maintaining the credit, reputation, and prosperity of my kingdoms.

Then the Lord Chancellor, by his Majesty's command, said,

IT is his Majesty's royal will and pleasure, that this Parliament be prorogued to Tuesday, the seventh day of September next, to be then here held: and this Parliament is accordingly prorogued to Tuesday, the seventh day of September next.

His Majesty's most gracious Speech, January 13, 1774.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

THE unusual length of the last session of Parliament made me desirous of giving you as long a recess as the public service would admit. I have, therefore, been glad to find myself under no necessity of calling you from your respective counties at an earlier season; and I doubt not but you are now met together, in the best disposition, for applying yourselves to the dispatch of public business.

You will, I am persuaded, agree with me in regretting, that the peace, so long expected and so very desirable, is not yet effected between Russia and the Porte; but it is with real satisfaction I can repeat, that other foreign powers continue still to have the same pacific dispositions with myself. I can have no other wish than to see the general tranquillity restored: for the establishment and subsequent preservation of which, no endeavours of mine, consistent with the honour of my crown, and interests of my people, shall ever be wanting.

In this state of foreign affairs, you will have full leisure to attend to the improvement of our internal and domestic situation; and to the prosecution of measures more immediately respecting the preservation and advancement of the revenue and commerce of the Kingdom. Among the objects which, in this view, will come under your consideration, none can better deserve your attention than the state of the gold coin; which I must recommend to you in a more particular manner, as well on account of its very high importance, as of the peculiar advantage which the present time affords, for executing with success such measures as you may find it expedient to adopt with respect to this great national concern.

The degree of diminution which that coin had actually suffered, and the very rapid progress which the mischief was daily making, were truly alarming. It is with much satisfaction that I have seen the evil, in a great measure, checked by the regulation made in the last session of Parliament. I trust, however, that you will not stop here, nor think that you have discharged your duty, either to your country or your fellow-subjects, without using your best endeavours for putting the gold coin upon such a footing, as may not only completely remove the present grievance, but render the credit and commerce of the kingdom sufficiently secure from being again exposed to the like danger.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I have ordered the proper estimates for the current year to be laid before you ; and rely on your readiness to grant me such supplies as shall be found requisite in the present situation of affairs.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

The experience I have had of your past conduct leaves me no room to doubt either of your zeal or prudence, in your endeavours to promote the welfare of your country. You will not suffer any parts of the public service to escape your attention ; but, various and extensive as those are, you will be careful to select, for your immediate deliberation, such of them as shall appear to be most important : and you can propose no measures, that will serve either to secure or advance the happiness and prosperity of my people, in which you may not always depend on my most hearty concurrence.

Address by the House of Lords to his Majesty, Jan. 13, 1774

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Lords spiritual and temporal, in Parliament assembled, return your Majesty our humble thanks for your most gracious speech from the throne.

We are truly sensible of your Majesty's goodness in having granted us as long a recess from business as the public service would admit.

We cannot but express our concern, that the peace so long expected, and so very desirable, is not yet concluded between Russia and the Porte. It gives us, however, great satisfaction to hear of the continuance of the pacific dispositions of other foreign powers : and we humbly beg leave to return your Majesty our sincerest thanks for your Majesty's most gracious declaration, that no endeavours shall be wanting on your part, consistent with the honour of your crown, and the interests of your people, towards the establishment and subsequent preservation of public tranquillity.

Your Majesty may be assured that we entertain the justest sense of your paternal care in recommending to your Parliament to make use of this season of tranquillity for improving the commerce and revenue of the kingdom ; and in pointing out to us particularly the necessity and great national advan-

tage of putting the gold coin on such a footing, as may completely remove the present grievance, and secure the credit and commerce of the kingdom from being again exposed to the like danger. The wisdom and goodness of your Majesty on this occasion appear in so conspicuous a light as cannot fail to fill our minds with the deepest gratitude, and raise in us the strongest desire of employing our utmost efforts for such salutary purposes.

Animated with every sentiment of duty to your Majesty, and zeal for the public welfare, we will take under our most serious consideration, the important objects to which your Majesty has directed our attention.

His Majesty's most gracious Answer.

My Lords,

I THANK you for this loyal address. Nothing can give me greater satisfaction than these assurances of your duty

You may always depend upon my hearty concurrence in every measure that contributes to the improvement of commerce, and the true interest and prosperity of my people.

Address of the House of Commons to His Majesty, Jan. 13, 1774.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects the Commons of Great Britain, in Parliament assembled, return your Majesty our most humble thanks for your Majesty's most gracious speech from the throne.

Permit us, Sir, to assure your Majesty, that we sincerely regret that the peace so long expected, and so much desired, is not yet effected between Russia and the Porte; but, at the same time, we beg leave to express the satisfaction we feel, in learning that other foreign powers continue still to have the same pacific dispositions with your Majesty: we acknowledge, with the utmost gratitude, the assurance which your Majesty has been pleased to repeat to us, that you have no other wish than to see the general tranquillity restored and preserved, consistently with the honour of your crown, and the interests of your people; and we consider this gracious declaration of your Majesty as a fresh instance of your Majesty's paternal care for the welfare of your subjects, and of your generous concern for the happiness of mankind.

We

We are truly sensible that it is our duty, as it shall be our care, to employ the leisure which the state of foreign affairs allows us, in attending to our internal and domestic situation: and we cannot but acknowledge your Majesty's great wisdom, in recommending and pointing out to our serious consideration the state of the gold coin of this kingdom, as well on account of its very extensive importance, as of the peculiar advantages which the present time affords, for conducting and executing with success any measures touching this great national object: we saw, with the deepest concern, the difficulties and distress in which the nation was on the point of being involved, by the very alarming degree of diminution which this coin has actually suffered, before the evil was checked by the regulations made in the last session of Parliament; and we beg leave to assure your Majesty, that, impressed with a just sense of our duty to our country and our fellow-subjects, we will exert our best endeavours to accomplish the great work of putting the gold coin upon such a footing as may not only completely remove the present grievance, but, as far as the nature of the case will admit, render the credit and commerce of the kingdom secure from being again exposed to the like danger.

Your faithful Commons will, with the utmost cheerfulness, grant to your Majesty such supplies as shall be found necessary in the present situation of affairs: and your Majesty may be assured, that, animated by your recommendation, and excited by your example, we will apply ourselves with the utmost zeal and diligence to promote the welfare of our country; and that we will not fail to direct our attention to such parts of the public service as appear to us most important; having a perfect confidence that, whatever measures we may propose, that will serve either to secure or advance the happiness and prosperity of your people, will always meet with your Majesty's gracious approbation and concurrence.



His Majesty's most gracious Answer.

Gentlemen,

I THANK you for this very loyal and dutiful address. I see, with the highest satisfaction, the continuance of your affection to me, and of your zeal for the public service. You may be assured that it is the invariable object and the constant care of my life to promote the happiness, and to deserve the confidence, of my people.

Message

Message from his Majesty, March 7, 1774.

HIS Majesty, upon information of the unwarrantable practices which have been lately concerted and carried on in North America, and particularly of the violent and outrageous proceedings at the town and port of Boston, in the province of Massachusetts Bay, with a view to obstructing the commerce of this kingdom, and upon grounds and pretences immediately subversive of the constitution thereof, has thought fit to lay the whole matter before his two Houses of Parliament, fully confiding as well in their zeal for the maintenance of his Majesty's authority, as in their attachment to the common interest and welfare of all his dominions, that they will not only enable his Majesty effectually to take such measures as may be most likely to put an immediate stop to the present disorders, but will also take into their most serious consideration what further regulations and permanent provisions may be necessary to be established, for better securing the execution of the laws, and the just dependence of the colonies upon the crown and parliament of Great Britain.

His Majesty's most gracious Speech, June 22, 1774.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I HAVE observed with the utmost satisfaction, the many eminent proofs you have given of your zealous and prudent attention to the public service, during the course of this very interesting session of Parliament.

The necessity of providing some effectual remedy for the great and manifold mischiefs, both public and private, arising from the impaired state of the gold coin, induced me, at the opening of the session, to recommend that important object to your consideration: in the several measures you have taken for the redress of those evils, you have sufficiently manifested as well your regard to the general credit and commercial interests of the kingdom, as to the immediate ease and accommodation of my people.

The very peculiar circumstances of embarrassment in which the province of Quebec was involved, had rendered the proper adjustment and regulations of the government thereof, a matter of no small difficulty. The bill which you prepared for that purpose, and to which I have now given my assent, is founded on the clearest principles of justice and humanity; and

will, I doubt not, have the best effects in quieting the minds, and promoting the happiness of my Canadian subjects.

I have long seen, with concern, a dangerous spirit of resistance to my government, and to the execution of the laws, prevailing in the province of Massachusetts Bay, in New England. It proceeded at length to such an extremity, as to render your immediate interposition indispensably necessary; and you have accordingly made provision, as well for the suppression of the present disorders, as for the prevention of the like in future. The temper and firmness with which you have conducted yourselves in this important business, and the general concurrence with which the resolution of maintaining the authority of the laws in every part of my dominions hath been adopted and supported, cannot fail of giving the greatest weight to the measures which have been the result of your deliberations. Nothing that depends on me shall be wanting to render them effectual. It is my most anxious desire to see my deluded subjects, in that part of the world, returning to a sense of their duty, acquiescing in that just subordination to the authority, and maintaining that due regard to the commercial interest of this country, which must ever be inseparably connected with their own real prosperity and advantage.

Nothing material has happened, since your meeting, with respect to the war between Russia and the Porte; and it is with pleasure I can inform you, that the very friendly assurances which I continue to receive from the neighbouring powers, give me the strongest reason to believe that they have the same good dispositions as myself, to preserve the tranquillity of the rest of Europe.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I thank you for the supplies which you have so cheerfully given; and I see with great satisfaction, that, notwithstanding the ample grants you have made for the several establishments, and the compensation which has been so properly provided for the holders of the deficient gold coin, you have been able to make a further progress in the reduction of the national debt.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I have nothing to recommend to you, but that you would carry into your respective counties the same affectionate attachment to my person and government, and the same zeal for the maintenance of the public welfare, which have distinguished all your proceedings in this session of Parliament.

Then

Then the Lord Chancellor, by his Majesty's command, said,

My Lords and Gentlemen,

IT is his Majesty's royal will and pleasure, that this Parliament be prorogued to Thursday, the fourth day of August next, to be then here held: and this Parliament is accordingly prorogued to Thursday, the fourth day of August next.

His Majesty's most gracious Speech, Nov. 30, 1774.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

IT gives me much concern, that I am obliged, at the opening of this Parliament, to inform you, that a most daring spirit of resistance and disobedience to the law still unhappily prevails in the province of the Massachusetts Bay, and has in divers parts of it broke forth in fresh violences of a very criminal nature. These proceedings have been countenanced and encouraged in other of my colonies, and unwarrantable attempts have been made to obstruct the commerce of this kingdom by unlawful combinations. I have taken such measures, and given such orders, as I judged most proper and effectual for carrying into execution the laws which were passed in the last session of the late Parliament, for the protection and security of the commerce of my subjects and for the restoring and preserving peace, order, and good government, in the province of Massachusetts Bay; and you may depend upon my firm and stedfast resolution to withstand every attempt to weaken or impair the supreme authority of this legislature over all the dominions of my crown, the maintenance of which I consider as essential to the dignity, the safety, and the welfare of the British empire; assuring myself, that, while I act upon these principles, I shall never fail to receive your assistance and support.

I have the greatest satisfaction in being able to inform you, that a treaty of peace is concluded between Russia and the Porte. By this happy event the troubles which have so long prevailed in one part of Europe are composed, and the general tranquillity rendered complete. It shall be my constant aim and endeavour to prevent the breaking out of fresh disturbances;

and I cannot but flatter myself I shall succeed, as I continue to receive the strongest assurances from other powers of their being equally disposed to preserve the peace.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I have ordered the proper estimates for the service of the ensuing year to be laid before you; and I doubt not but that, in this House of Commons, I shall meet with the same affectionate confidence, and the same proofs of zeal and attachment to my person and government, which I have always, during the course of my reign, received from my faithful Commons.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

Let me particularly recommend to you, at this time, to proceed with temper in your deliberations, and with unanimity in your resolutions. Let my people, in every part of my dominions, be taught by your example, to have a due reverence for the laws, and a just sense of the blessings of our excellent constitution. They may be assured that, on my part, I have nothing so much at heart as the real prosperity and lasting happiness of all my subjects.

Address by the House of Lords to his Majesty, Nov. 30, 1774.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Lords spiritual and temporal, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to return your Majesty our humble thanks for your most gracious speech from the throne.

We think it our indispensable duty to declare, on this occasion, our abhorrence and detestation of the daring spirit of resistance and disobedience to the laws, which so strongly prevails in the province of Massachusetts Bay, and of the unwarrantable attempts in that and other of your Majesty's provinces in America, to obstruct, by unlawful combinations, the trade of this kingdom.

We thankfully acknowledge, at the same time, the communication it has pleased your Majesty to make to us of your having taken such measures, and given such orders, as your Majesty judged the most proper and effectual for the protection and security of the commerce of your Majesty's subjects, and for the carrying into execution the laws which were passed

sed in the last session of the late Parliament, relative to the province of Massachusetts Bay; and in the utmost reliance on your Majesty's firm and stedfast resolution to continue to support the supreme authority of the legislature over all the dominions of your crown, your Majesty may be assured that we will cheerfully co-operate in all such measures as shall be necessary to maintain the dignity, the safety, and the welfare of the British empire.

As this nation cannot be unconcerned in the common interests of Europe, it is with the greatest satisfaction we are acquainted with the conclusion of the peace between Russia and the Porte. We have the fullest confidence in your Majesty's endeavours to prevent, as far as possible, the breaking out of fresh disturbances: and from the assurances given to your Majesty by other powers, we have the pleasing expectation that nothing is likely to happen that may interrupt the present happy tranquillity in Europe.

We beg leave humbly to assure your Majesty that it will be no less our duty than our inclination to proceed with temper and unanimity in our deliberations and resolutions, and to inculcate, by our example, a due reverence to the laws, and a just sense of the excellency of our constitution. Impressed with these sentiments, and with the deepest gratitude for the many blessings we have enjoyed during the course of your Majesty's reign, it will be our principal care to testify, with unaffected zeal, at this conjuncture, our inviolable fidelity to your Majesty, and our serious attention to the public welfare.

His Majesty's most gracious Answer.

My Lords,

I THANK you for your affectionate assurances of duty and loyalty. The zeal you express for the support of the supreme authority of the legislature, which I shall constantly maintain, is very agreeable to me, and your resolution to proceed with temper and unanimity in your deliberations, gives me the greater satisfaction, as it corresponds with the hearty concern I shall ever have for the true interests of all my people.

Address by the House of Commons to his Majesty, Nov. 30, 1774.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons of Great Britain, in Parliament assembled, return your Majesty our humble thanks for your most gracious speech from the throne.

Permit us to assure your Majesty, that we receive with the highest sense of your Majesty's goodness the early information which you have been pleased to give us, of the state of the province of Massachusetts Bay.

We feel the most sincere concern, that a spirit of disobedience and resistance to the law should still unhappily prevail in that province, and that it has broke forth in fresh violences of a most criminal nature: and we cannot but lament that such proceedings should have been countenanced and encouraged in any other of your Majesty's colonies, and that any of your subjects should have been so far deluded and misled, as to make rash and unwarrantable attempts to obstruct the commerce of your Majesty's kingdoms by unlawful combinations.

We beg leave to present our most dutiful thanks to your Majesty for having taken such measures as your Majesty judged most proper and effectual, for carrying into execution the laws which were passed in the last session of the late Parliament, for the protection and security of the commerce of your Majesty's subjects, and for restoring and preserving peace, order, and good government in the province of Massachusetts Bay.

Your faithful Commons, animated by your Majesty's gracious assurances, will use every means in their power to assist your Majesty in maintaining entire and inviolate the supreme authority of this legislature over all the dominions of your crown; being truly sensible that we should betray the trust reposed in us, and be wanting in every duty which we owe to your Majesty, and to our fellow-subjects, if we failed to give our most zealous support to those great constitutional principles which govern your Majesty's conduct in this important business, and which are so essential to the dignity, safety, and welfare of the British empire.

We learn, with great satisfaction, that a treaty of peace is concluded between Russia and the Porte, and that, by this happy event, the general tranquillity is rendered complete: and we entertain a well-grounded hope that your Majesty's
constant

constant endeavours to prevent the breaking out of fresh disturbances will be attended with success, as your Majesty continues to receive the strongest assurances from other powers of their being equally disposed to preserve the peace.

We assure your Majesty, that we will, with the utmost cheerfulness, grant to your Majesty every necessary supply; and that we consider ourselves bound by gratitude, as well as duty, to give every proof of the most affectionate attachment to a prince, who, during the whole course of his reign, has made the happiness of his people the object of all his views, and the rule of all his actions.

His Majesty's most gracious Answer.

Gentlemen,

I RETURN you my particular thanks for this very loyal and dutiful address. I receive with the highest satisfaction and approbation your assurances of assistance and support, in maintaining the supreme authority of the legislature over all the dominions of my crown. It shall be my care to justify by my conduct the confidence you so affectionately express, and to shew that I have no interests separate from those of my people.

The humble Address of the Archbishop, the Bishops and Clergy of the Province of Canterbury in Convocation assembled, presented to his Majesty, January 23, 1775.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the archbishop, bishops, and clergy, of the province of Canterbury in convocation assembled, most gladly embrace the opportunity now afforded us of renewing in this our collective capacity, our warmest and sincerest professions of allegiance, fidelity, and affection to your Majesty's most sacred person and government.

We humbly beg leave to assure your Majesty that we are penetrated with the deepest sense of the happiness we enjoy under your mild and auspicious reign. The proofs your Majesty has given of your truly parental care and tenderness for your subjects are too many to be enumerated. But as ministers of the gospel of peace, we hold ourselves more especially

bound to express our sincerest thanks to your Majesty for your unwearied and successful endeavours, during a long course of years, to prevent the needless effusion of Christian blood; and, in perfect consistency with the dignity of your crown, and the true interests of your kingdom, to establish peace and tranquillity in every part of Europe; a conduct no less consonant to the maxims of sound policy, than to the dictates of humanity, and the benevolent temper of our most holy religion.

Those gracious declarations your Majesty has so frequently made and so religiously observed, that you will support the church of England as it is now by law established, demand from us our most grateful acknowledgments, and leave us no room to doubt the continuance of the same royal favour and protection which we have hitherto experienced. Permit us, Sir, on this occasion, in all humility to say, that the ecclesiastical part of our constitution is no less excellent than the civil and that they are so closely and intimately blended with each other, that, as experience has shewn, they must stand or fall together.

It might naturally be expected, that a people thus favoured by Providence would demonstrate their gratitude by their distinguished goodness. But truth obliges us to own to your Majesty, that the sincerity and purity of their manners do by no means correspond to the advantages they possess. With infinite concern we observe, that a numerous heresies both of sentiment and conduct, a spirit of frivolous dissipation and ruinous profusion, of disaffected insinuations, and contempt of lawful authority, have made an alarming progress in the nation, and present a very gloomy prospect to every serious and considerate mind.

We are fully sensible that much depends on the labours of the clergy in opposing to this evil the powerful operation of religious principles, and we do faithfully promise your Majesty that we will exert our utmost efforts for this purpose, by redoubling our diligence in the discharge of our sacred functions, by keeping the strictest guard on our own lives and conversations, by carefully teaching the true genuine doctrine of the gospel, and impeding forcibly on the minds of our hearers the great practical duties of Christianity, which are no less beneficial to society than necessary to salvation.

To these our earnest endeavours in the cause of morality and religion, we shall constantly add our most fervent prayers to Almighty God, that he would be pleased to crown with success all your Majesty's designs and undertakings for the welfare of your extensive dominions; that as he has blessed your Majesty with a numerous progeny, he may vouchsafe you the
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still greater comfort of seeing them copy the bright example of their royal parents; and that in this, and every other instance, he may render your Majesty's life as happy to yourself, as it is dear and important to your people.

To which Address his Majesty was pleased to return the following most gracious Answer:

I THANK you for this very dutiful and affectionate address. It is with the deepest concern I am informed that vice and contempt of lawful authority continue so universally to prevail. Your strenuous endeavours to discourage this pernicious tendency to irreligion are highly acceptable to me, and will always meet with my support and protection. I have nothing more at heart than to maintain the church of England as by law established, as well as the religious and civil rights of all my people.

Joint Address by both Houses to the King, Feb. 9, 1775.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Lord spiritual and temporal, and Commons, in Parliament assembled, return our most humble thanks for your Majesty having been graciously pleased to communicate to us the several papers relating to the present state of the British colonies in America, which, by your Majesty's commands, have been laid before us.

We have taken them into our most serious consideration, and we find that a part of your Majesty's subjects in the province of the Massachusetts Bay have proceeded so far as to resist the authority of the supreme legislature, and that a rebellion at this time actually exists within the said province: and we see, with the utmost concern, that they have been countenanced and encouraged by unlawful combinations and engagements entered into by your Majesty's subjects in several of the other colonies, to the injury and oppression of many of their innocent fellow-subjects, resident within the kingdom of Great Britain, and the rest of your Majesty's dominions. This conduct on their part appears to us the more inexcusable, when we consider with how much temper your Majesty and the two Houses of Parliament have acted in support of the laws and the constitution of Great Britain. We can never so far de-

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fer the trust reposed in us, as to relinquish any part of the sovereign authority over all your Majesty's dominions, which by law is vested in your Majesty and the two Houses of Parliament : and the conduct of many persons in several of the colonies during the late disturbances is alone sufficient to convince us how necessary this power is for the protection of the lives and fortunes of all your Majesty's subjects. We have ever been, and always shall be ready to pay attention and regard to any real grievances of any of your Majesty's subject, which shall in a dutiful and constitutional manner be laid before us. And whenever any of the colonies shall make a proper application to us, we shall be ready to afford them every just and reasonable indulgence. At the same time we consider it as our indispensible duty, humbly to beseech your Majesty, that you will take the most effectual measures to enforce due obedience to the laws and authority of the supreme Legislature. And we beg leave, in the most solemn manner to assure your Majesty, that it is our fixed resolution, at the hazard of our lives and properties, to stand by your Majesty against all rebellious attempts in the maintenance of the just rights of your Majesty, and the two Houses of Parliament.

His Majesty's most gracious Answer.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I THANK you for the very dutiful and loyal address, and for the affectionate and firm assurances you give me of your support in maintaining the just rights of my crown, and of the two Houses of Parliament, and you may depend on my taking the most speedy and effectual measures for enforcing due obedience to the laws and the authority of the supreme Legislature.

Whenever any of my colonies shall make a proper and dutiful application, I shall be ready to concur with you in affording them every just and reasonable indulgence, and it is my ardent wish, that this disposition on our part may have a happy effect on the temper and conduct of my subjects in America.

Message

Message from his Majesty to the House of Commons, Feb. 10, 1775.

GEORGE REX.

HIS Majesty being determined, in consequence of the address of both Houses of Parliament, to take the most speedy and effectual measures for supporting the just rights of his crown, and the two Houses of Parliament, thinks proper to acquaint this House, that some addition to his forces by sea and land will be necessary for that purpose; and does not doubt but his faithful Commons, on whose zeal and affection he entirely relies, will enable him to make such an augmentation to his forces, as the present occasion shall be thought to require.

G. R.

Message from his Majesty to the House of Commons, April 12, 1775.

GEORGE REX.

HIS Majesty being desirous that a better and more suitable accommodation should be made for the residence of the Queen, in case she shall survive his Majesty, and being willing that the palace in which his Majesty now resides, lately known by the name of Buckingham house, and now called the Queen's house, may be settled for that purpose in lieu of Somerset house, recommends it to his faithful Commons to take the same into their consideration; and to make provision for settling the said palace upon her Majesty, and for appropriating Somerset house to such uses as shall be found most beneficial for the public.

G. R.

Speech by the Speaker of the House of Commons, May 26, 1775.

Most gracious Sovereign,

YOUR faithful Commons present to you three money bills; the first for raising money by loans and Exchequer bills for the service of the year 1775; the second for establishing a lottery, and for paying off 1,000,000*l.* 5 per cent annuities, and for other purposes therein mentioned, and the other for appropriating the surplusses of the sinking fund for the service of the current year. These are all necessary grants, but they are yet very heavy, and are what nothing but the particular exigencies

gencies of the times could justify in a time of profound peace. The unhappy differences in America have been the chief cause of this expence ; and I trust, that when the people of America see, in a proper light, the conduct of this country, they will learn to pay proper obedience to the laws ; if, on the contrary, they should persist in their resolutions, and that the sword must be drawn, your faithful Commons will do every thing in their power to maintain and support the supremacy of this legislature. A great part of the session has been taken up in determining complaints respecting controverted elections. I cannot but admire the wisdom of the last Parliament in enacting that law ; neither can I withhold the praise justly due to the committees who have acted so much to the satisfaction of the public, and so fully in discharge of their own consciences. On the whole, Sir, I make no doubt but you will faithfully apply the money thus granted to the purposes for which it was appropriated.

His Majesty's most gracious Speech, May 26, 1775.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I CANNOT, in justice to you, forbear to express my entire satisfaction in your conduct during the course of this important session.

You have maintained, with a firm and steady resolution, the rights of my crown, and the authority of Parliament, which I shall ever consider as inseparable: you have protected and promoted the commercial interest of my kingdoms; and you have, at the same time, given convincing proofs of your readiness (as far as the constitution will allow you) to gratify the wishes and remove the apprehensions of my subjects in America: and I am persuaded, that the most salutary effects must, in the end, result from measures formed and conducted on such principles.

The late mark of your affectionate attachment to me, and to the Queen, and the zeal and unanimity which accompanied it, demand my particular thanks.

I have the satisfaction to acquaint you, that, as well from the general dispositions of other powers, as from the solemn assurances which I have received, I have great reason to expect the continuance of peace: nothing on my part, consistent with the maintenance of the honour and interest of my kingdoms, shall be wanting to secure the public tranquillity.

Gentlemen

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

It gives me much concern, that the unhappy disturbances in some of my colonies have obliged me to propose to you an augmentation of my army, and have prevented me from completing the intended reduction of the establishment of my naval forces. I cannot sufficiently thank you for the cheerfulness and public spirit with which you have granted the supplies for the several services of the current year,

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I have nothing to desire of you, but to use your best endeavours to preserve and to cultivate, in your several colonies, the same regard for public order, and the same discernment of their true interests, which have in these times distinguished the character of my faithful and beloved people; and the continuance of which cannot fail to render them happy at home, and respected abroad.

Then the Lord Chancellor, by his Majesty's command, said,

My Lords and Gentlemen,

IT is his Majesty's royal will and pleasure, that this Parliament be prorogued to Thursday, the twenty-seventh day of July next, to be then here held: and this Parliament is accordingly prorogued to Thursday, the twenty-seventh day of July next.

His Majesty's most gracious Speech, June 9, 1772.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

THE present situation of America, and my constant desire to have your advice, concurrence, and assistance on every important occasion, have determined me to call you thus early together.

Those who have long too successfully laboured to inflame my people in America by gross misrepresentations, and to infuse into their minds a system of opinions repugnant to the true constitution of the colonies, and to their subordinate relation to Great Britain, now openly avow their revolt, hostility, and rebellion. They have raised troops, and are collecting a naval force; they have seized the public revenue, and assumed to themselves legislative, executive, and judicial powers, which

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they already exercise, in the most arbitrary manner, over the persons and properties of their fellow subjects: and although many of these unhappy people may still retain their loyalty, and may be too wise not to see the fatal consequence of this usurpation, and wish to resist it, yet the torrent of violence has been strong enough to compel their acquiescence, till a force shall appear to support them.

The authors and promoters of this desperate conspiracy have, in the conduct of it, derived great advantage from the difference of our intentions and theirs; they meant only to allure by vague expressions of attachment to the parent state, and the strongest protestations of loyalty to me, whilst they were preparing for a general revolt. On our part, though it was declared in your last session that a rebellion existed within the province of Massachusetts Bay, yet even that province we wished rather to reclaim than to subvert. The resolutions of Parliament breathed a spirit of moderation and forbearance, conciliatory propositions accompanied the measures taken to enforce authority, and the coercive acts were adapted to cases of criminal combinations amongst subjects not then in arms. I have acted with the same temper, anxious to prevent, if it had been possible, the effusion of the blood of my subjects, and the calamities which are inseparable from a state of civil war, still hoping that my people in America would have effected the salutary views of our leaders, and have been convinced, that to be a subject of Great Britain, with all its consequences, was to be the freest member of any civil society in the known world.

The rebellion now levied is become more general, and is manifestly carried on for the purpose of obtaining an independent empire. I need not dwell upon the fatal effects of the success of such a plan. The objects to be pursued in respect of the British empire too high, the source of wealth which God hath blessed her too numerous, the great number of colonies which she has planted with inhabitants, and which she has enriched, encumbered with many commercial advantages, and protected and defended at much expense of blood and treasure.

It is now become the part of wisdom, and (in its effects) of clemency, to put a speedy end to these disorders by the most decisive exertions. For this purpose, I have increased my naval establishment, and greatly augmented my land forces; but in such a manner as may be the least burthen some to my Kingdoms.

I have also the satisfaction to inform you, that I have received the most friendly offers of foreign assistance, and if I shall

shall make any treaties in consequence thereof, they shall be laid before you. And I have in testimony of my affection for my people, who can have no cause in which I am not equally interested, sent to the garrisons of Gibraltar and Port Mahon a part of my electoral troops, in order that a larger number of the established forces of this kingdom may be applied to the maintenance of its authority; and the national militia, planned and regulated with equal regard to the rights, safety, and protection of my crown and people, may give a farther extent and activity to our national operations.

When the unhappy and deluded multitude, against whom this force will be directed, shall become sensible of their error, I shall be ready to receive them with tenderness and mercy: and in order to prevent the inconveniencies which may arise from the great distance of their situation, and to remove as soon as possible the calamities which they suffer, I shall give authority to certain persons upon the spot to grant general or particular pardons and indemnities, in such manner, and to such persons as they shall think fit, and to receive the submission of any province or colony, which shall be disposed to return to its allegiance. It may be also proper to authorise the persons so commissioned to restore such province or colony to returning to its allegiance, to the free exercise of its trade and commerce, and to the same protection and security as if such province or colony had never revolted.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I have ordered the proper estimates for the ensuing year to be laid before you; and I rely on your affection to me, and your resolution to maintain the just rights of this country, for such supplies as the present circumstances of our affairs require. Among the many unavoidable ill consequences of this rebellion, none affects me more sensibly than the extraordinary burthen which it must create to my faithful subjects.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I have fully opened to you my views and intentions. The constant employment of my thoughts, and the most earnest wishes of my heart, tend wholly to the safety and happiness of all my people, and to the re-establishment of order and tranquillity through the several parts of my dominions, in a close connection and constitutional dependance. You see the tendency of the present disorders, and I have stated to you the measures which I mean to pursue for suppressing them. Whatever remains to be done that may farther contribute to this end, I commit to your wisdom. And I am happy to add, that, as
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well from the assurances I have received, as from the general appearance of affairs in Europe, I see no probability that the measures which you may adopt will be interrupted by disputes with any foreign power.

Address by the House of Representatives to the King, Oct. 27, 1775.

Most gracious Son of a Man,

WF, your Majesty's loyal and loyal subjects, the
Lords spiritual and temporal, in Parliament assembled,
behave to return your Majesty's humble thanks for your
merciful speech in the throne.

[illegible]

When not worded as they are concerning the great tenderness with which your Majesty has proceeded, and the conciliatory disposition which has entered into the bosom of Parliament, instead of having excited a riot or uncovering the mistletoe, and establishing a confidence in the present state, have been turned to the advantage, and made instrumental to the purpose of the dangerous attempt, and whilst we acknowledge this to be the consequence of the difference of intention which prevails here and in America, we are penetrated with a just sense of the motives which have regulated your Majesty's endeavours to prevent, if it had been possible, the effusion of the blood of our fellow subjects, and the calamities which are inseparable from a state of war, but since the rebellion is now become more general, and manifests the purpose of establishing and maintaining an independent empire, we cannot but applaud your Majesty's resolution to vindicate the rights, the interest, and the honour of this kingdom, by a speedy and most decisive

decisive exertion ; and for this purpose we think it our indispensable duty to declare that we will support your Majesty with our lives and fortunes ; and being fully persuaded, that in the present state of these disorders, the most active will, in its effects, be the most merciful mode of proceeding, we hear with pleasure, that your Majesty has increased your naval establishment, and also greatly augmented your land forces. We are sensible of your Majesty's kind consideration, in having done it in such a manner as may be the least burthensome to your kingdoms ; and your Majesty may be assured, that we shall cheerfully concur in whatever may be necessary to enable your Majesty to profit of the friendly disposition of foreign powers.

We are deeply impressed by the gracious motives which induced your Majesty to send a part of your electoral troops to the garrisons of Gibraltar and Port Mahon, by which assistance this country will be enabled to employ a larger number of its own established forces in the maintenance of its authority ; and we return your Majesty our sincerest thanks for having so providentially pointed out to us a farther resource in that national body of men so constitutional in their nature, and so zealous in their duty, the militia of this kingdom.

We cannot sufficiently admire your Majesty's benevolent declaration, that when the wished-for period arrives, that the unhappy and deluded multitude, against whom this force will be directed, shall become sensible of their error, your Majesty will receive them with tenderness and mercy ; and we are fully sensible of the wise and compassionate sentiments which have determined your Majesty to delegate authority to certain persons upon the spot, to grant general or particular pardons and indemnities in such manner, and to such persons, as they shall think fit, and to receive the submission of any province or colony which shall be disposed to return to its allegiance ; and we will most readily concur in granting to the persons so commissioned such farther powers as may best tend to promote and effectuate your Majesty's salutary measures.

Permit us, Sir, to offer our grateful acknowledgments to your Majesty for the full and explicit communication which your Majesty has been pleased to make to us, and at the same time to express the just sense we entertain of the numerous blessings we enjoy, flowing from the source of never-ceasing attention with which your Majesty is occupied for the safety and happiness of all your people ; and we beg leave to assure your Majesty, that we participate the same desire which animates your royal breast, and feel no other wish than to re-establish order and tranquillity through the several parts of your

dominions, upon the basis of a close connection with, and constitutional dependance upon Great Britain.

His Majesty's most gracious Answer.

My Lords,

I RECEIVE with the most sensible satisfaction this address, so fully expressive of your duty and loyalty to me. Nothing can be more acceptable than the assurances you give of your utmost support to enable me to re-establish order and tranquillity throughout all my dominions, and I shall most heartily concur with any measures that may tend to so salutary a purpose.

Address by the House of Commons to his Majesty, Oct. 27, 1775.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects the Commons of Great Britain, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to return your Majesty the humble thanks of this House for your Majesty's most gracious speech from the throne.

Permit us, Sir, to assure your Majesty, that we have long lamented the condition of our unhappy fellow subjects in America, seduced from their allegiance by the grossest misrepresentations, and the most wicked and insidious pretences, they have been made the instruments of the ambition, and traitorous designs of those dangerous men who have led them step by step, to the standard of rebellion, and who have now assumed the powers of sovereign authority which they exercise in the most despotic and arbitrary manner over the persons and properties of this deluded people.

Your faithful Commons took a sincere part in your Majesty's benevolent and paternal desire, rather to reclaim, than to subdue, the most refractory of your colonies; and excited by your Majesty's great example, we were anxious to prevent, if it had been possible, the effusion of the blood of our fellow-subjects, and the calamities which are inseparable from a state of war; we still hoped that your Majesty's people in America would have discerned the traitorous views of their leaders, would have considered how ruinous even their success must be to themselves, and been convinced that constitutional subjection to Great Britain is the freest and happiest condition of any civil society in the known world: but we now see with indignation, that no other use has been made of the moderation and forbearance of
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your Majesty and your Parliament, but to strengthen the preparations of this desperate conspiracy ; and that the rebellious war now levied is become more general, and manifestly carried on for the purpose of establishing an independent empire.

We beg leave to assure your Majesty of our entire concurrence with your Majesty, in thinking that it is now become the part of wisdom, and (in its effects) of clemency, to put a speedy end to these disorders by the most decisive exertions ; and that we learn with great satisfaction, that for this purpose your Majesty has increased your naval establishment, and greatly augmented your land forces, in such a manner as may be the least burthensome to your kingdoms ; and we will cheerfully and effectually support your Majesty in such necessary measures, and enable your Majesty, when the occasion shall require it, to avail yourself of the friendly offers, which your Majesty has received of foreign assistance. We thankfully acknowledge the gracious considerations which induced your Majesty to send a part of your electoral troops to the garisons of Gibraltar and Port Mahon, in order that a larger number of the established forces of this kingdom might be applied to the maintenance of its authority : and we are bound in duty to return your Majesty our particular thanks, for pointing out to us from the throne, the constitutional resource of our well-modelled and well-regulated national militia : which, upon every great emergency, cannot fail of affording security to your Majesty's realm, and of giving, at the same time, extent and activity to your military operations.

It is with the highest satisfaction and gratitude we hear the affectionate declaration of the father of his people, that when the unhappy and deluded multitude, against whom this force will be directed, shall become sensible of their error, your Majesty will be ready to receive the mislead with tenderness and mercy ; and your Majesty's gracious communication of your intention to give authority to certain persons on the spot, to grant general and particular pardons and indemnities, in such manner and to such persons as they shall think fit, and to receive the submission of any province or colony, which may be disposed to return to its allegiance, demands our warmest acknowledgments ; and we shall be ready to give our concurrence to such measures as may best contribute to carry your Majesty's wise and humane intentions into execution.

Every motive, and every interest, that can animate the hearts of loyal subjects, call upon your faithful Commons to grant to your Majesty such supplies as the circumstances and exigency of affairs may require ; and being fully convinced that the security of every benefit and advantage derived to the

commerce, the manufactures, and the navigation of your Majesty's kingdoms, from the American colonies, must ever depend on their being held in that due subordination to the legislature of Great Britain in which the constitution has placed them, we should be wanting in the duty we owe to our constituents, ourselves, and our posterity, if we did not engage with our lives and fortunes to support this great and important cause, in which the rights of your Majesty's crown and the interests of your people are so essentially concerned, and we hope and trust that we shall, by the blessing of God, put such strength and force into your Majesty's hands, as may soon defeat and suppress this rebellion, and enable your Majesty to accomplish your gracious wish, of re-establishing order, tranquillity, and happiness, through all the parts of your united empire.

His Majesty's most gracious Answer.

Gentlemen,

I RETURN you my hearty thanks for this loyal and dutiful address: I promise myself the most happy consequences from the very dutiful and affectionate assurances of the support of my faithful Commons on this great and important conjuncture, and I have a firm confidence, that by the blessing of God, and the justice of the cause, and by the assistance of my Parliament, I shall be enabled to suppress this dangerous rebellion, and to attain the most desirable end of restoring my subjects in America to the free and happy condition, and to the peace and prosperity which they enjoyed in their constitutional dependence on Great Britain before the present unhappy disorders.

Speech of Mr. Speaker to his Majesty, May 23, 1776.

May it please your Majesty,

YOUR Majesty's faithful Commons, have in the present session passed several wise, salutary, and necessary laws; particularly the law for prohibiting all trade and commerce with America, the law for the more speedy and effectual manning your Majesty's navy, and the law for establishing a national militia. Your Majesty's faithful Commons, with equal assiduity and attention, have performed every duty through a long and severe session. The business of America has engrossed the greatest part of their attention, nothing has
been

been wanting on their part to strengthen the hands of government; they have voted the most full and ample supplies. Convinced of the justice and necessity of securing the subordinate dependence of America, they have cheerfully co-operated in every proposition for securing the duty of your Majesty's subjects in that country, and their obedience to the legislative power of Great Britain. Your Majesty's faithful Commons, whatever measures may have been taken for the security of both, by a proper exertion of the strength of this country, do not wish for conquest but for peace and conciliation: and trusting to your Majesty's parental attention to the interests of every part of the empire, they have a full reliance on your Majesty's wisdom and goodness, that the present disputes with America will be happily terminated, and peace established on so firm a basis, as to prevent a return of the same evil in times to come.

His Majesty's most gracious Speech, May 23, 1776.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

THE conclusion of the public business, and the advanced season of the year, make it proper for me to give you some recess, but I cannot put an end to this session without assuring you, that the fresh instances of your affectionate attachment to me, and of your steady attention and adherence to the true interests of your country, which you have shewn through the whole course of your important deliberations, afford me the highest satisfaction.

No alteration has happened in the state of foreign affairs since your meeting, and it is with pleasure I inform you, that the assurances which I have received of the disposition of the several powers in Europe promise a continuance of the general tranquillity.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

It was with real regret and concern that I found myself under the necessity of asking of my faithful Commons any extraordinary supplies: I thank you for the readiness and dispatch with which they have been granted; and they are the more acceptable to me, as you have shewn, in the manner of raising them, an equal regard to the exigencies of the service, and the ease of my people; and you may be assured, that the confidence you repose in me shall be used with proper frugality, and applied only to the purposes for which it was intended.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

We are engaged in a great national cause, the prosecution of which must inevitably be attended with many difficulties and much expence: but when we consider that the essential rights and interests of the whole empire are deeply concerned in the issue of it, and can have no safety or security but in that constitutional subordination for which we are contending, I am convinced that you will not think any price too high for the preservation of such objects.

I will still entertain a hope, that my rebellious subjects may be awakened to a sense of their error, and that by a voluntary return to their duty, they will justify me in bringing about the favourite wish of my heart, the restoration of harmony and the re-establishment of order and happiness in every part of my dominions. But if a due submission should not be obtained from such motives and such dispositions on their part, I trust that I shall be able, under the blessing of Providence, to effectuate it by a full exertion of the great force with which you have entrusted me.

'Then the Lord Chancellor, by his Majesty's command, said,

My Lords and Gentlemen,

IT is his Majesty's royal will and pleasure, that this Parliament be prorogued to Thursday the 1st day of August next, to be then here holden; and this Parliament is accordingly prorogued to Thursday the 1st day of August next.

His Majesty's most gracious Speech, Oct. 31, 1776.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

NOTHING could have afforded me so much satisfaction as to have been able to inform you, at the opening of this session, that the troubles which have so long distracted my colonies in North America were at an end; and that my unhappy people, recovered from their delusion, had delivered themselves from the oppression of their leaders, and returned to their duty: but so daring and desperate is the spirit of those leaders, whose object has always been dominion and power, that they have now openly renounced all allegiance to the crown, and all political connection with this country: they have rejected, with circumstances of indignity and insult the means of conciliation held out to them under the authority of
our

our commission ; and have presumed to set up their rebellious confederacies for independent states. If their treason be suffered to take root much mischief must grow from it, to the safety of my loyal colonies, to the commerce of my kingdoms, and indeed to the present system of all Europe. One great advantage, however, will be derived from the object of the rebels being openly avowed, and clearly understood ; we shall have unanimity at home, founded in the general conviction of the justice and necessity of our measures.

I am happy to inform you, that by the blessing of divine Providence on the good conduct and valour of my officers and forces by sea and land, and on the zeal and bravery of the auxiliary troops in my service, Canada is recovered ; and although, from unavoidable delays, the operations at New York could not begin before the month of August, the success in that province has been so important as to give the strongest hopes of the most decisive good consequences : but, notwithstanding this fair prospect, we must, at all events, prepare for another campaign.

I continue to receive assurances of amity from the several courts of Europe ; and am using my utmost endeavours to conciliate unhappy differences between two neighbouring powers ; and I still hope that all misunderstandings may be removed, and Europe continue to enjoy the inestimable blessings of peace : I think, nevertheless, that in the present situation of affairs, it is expedient that we should be in a respectable state of defence at home.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I will order the estimates for the ensuing year to be laid before you. It is matter of real concern to me, that the important considerations which I have stated to you must necessarily be followed by great expence ; I doubt not, however, but that my faithful Commons will readily and cheerfully grant me such supplies, as the maintenance of the honour of my crown, the vindication of the just rights of Parliament, and the public welfare shall be found to require.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

In this arduous contest I can have no other object but to promote the true interests of all my subjects. No people ever enjoyed more happiness, or lived under a milder government, than those now revolted provinces : the improvements in every art, of which they boast, declare it : their numbers, their wealth, their strength by sea and land, which they think suf-

ficient to enable them to make head against the whole power of the mother country, are irrefragable proofs of it. My desire is to restore to them the blessings of law and liberty, equally enjoyed by every British subject, which they have fatally and desperately exchanged for all the calamities of war, and the arbitrary tyranny of their chiefs.

Address by the House of Lords to his Majesty, Oct. 31, 1776.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Lords spiritual and temporal, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to return your Majesty our humble thanks for your most gracious speech from the throne.

It is with the truest satisfaction we congratulate your Majesty on the success of your arms in the province of New York, the recovery of Canada, and the fair prospect of decisive good consequences, which, under the blessing of divine Providence, is now opened by the firmness of your Majesty's councils, the valour and good conduct of your Majesty's officers and forces, by sea and land, and by the zeal and bravery of the auxiliary troops in your Majesty's service.

We beg leave to assure your Majesty, that nothing would have given us equal happiness to the having been informed by your Majesty, at the opening of this session, that the troubles which have so long distracted North America, had been at an end; that your Majesty's unhappy people in those provinces had recovered from their delusion, and, awakened by a due sense of their misfortunes and misdoings, had delivered themselves from the oppression of their leaders, and were returned to their duty. While we lament that your Majesty's humane and merciful intentions have been frustrated by the neglect shewn to the means of conciliation, notified under the authority of your Majesty's royal commission, we feel the strongest indignation at the insolent manner in which they were rejected; and we want words to express our abhorrence of the desperate spirit of those overbearing men, who with an insatiable thirst of power and dominion, which has uniformly actuated all their proceedings, have now renounced allegiance to the crown, and all political connection with Great-Britain; and, with an arrogance equal to the enormity of the attempt, left a doubt of their real designs should remain on the breast of any person whatever, have set up their rebellious confederacies for independent states. We are fully aware of the mischief which would accrue from the success of this treason to your Majesty's loyal colonies, to the
commerce

commerce of this nation, and, more remotely indeed, but not less certainly, to the system of Europe, and to every state upon the continent of Europe possessed of distant colonies.

We reflect with pleasure on the solid advantage which will be derived from the object of the rebels being openly avowed and clearly understood, the unanimity which will prevail at home, founded in a conviction of the justice and necessity of your Majesty's measures. Inspired with the same zeal for the cause of our country which animates the kingdom at large, we will steadily support your Majesty in the vindication of the honour of your crown, and the just rights of Parliament, and will cheerfully concur in making the necessary provisions for those great purposes.

The assurances of amity, which your Majesty continues to receive from the several courts of Europe, afford us great satisfaction, we entertain the most grateful sense of the endeavours which your Majesty is exerting to conciliate unhappy differences between two neighbouring powers, and we trust that, by your Majesty's auspicious endeavours, these misunderstandings will be removed, and Europe continue to enjoy the inestimable blessing of peace. Permit us, Sir, at the same time, to return to your Majesty our dutiful thanks for your provident attention in guarding against any event which may arise out of the present situation of affairs, by keeping us in a respectable state of defence at home.

With hearts full of duty and gratitude, we acknowledge the happiness, which, under your Majesty's mild government, is extended to every part of the British empire; of which the late flourishing state of the revolted provinces, their numbers, their wealth, their strength by sea and land, which they think sufficient to enable them to make head against the whole power of the mother country, shew that they have abundantly participated. And we earnestly hope, that your Majesty's paternal object of restoring your distracted colonies to the happy condition from which by their own misconduct they are wretchedly fallen, will be speedily attained.

His Majesty's most gracious Answer.

My Lords,

I RETURN you my thanks for this dutiful and affectionate address.

It is with great pleasure I observe the satisfaction which the success of my arms against the rebels in North America has
give

given to all my loving subjects. That which you express is highly acceptable to me.

The preservation of the public tranquillity, the happiness of all my people, and the maintenance of our most excellent constitution, are the invariable objects of my heart.

Address by the House of Commons to his Majesty, Oct. 31, 1776.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons of Great Britain, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to return your Majesty the humble thanks of this House for your most gracious speech from the throne.

While we lament the continuance of the troubles which have so long distracted your Majesty's colonies in North America, and of the calamities and oppressions which our unhappy fellow subjects are still suffering under the arbitrary tyranny of their leaders, we cannot forbear to express our detestation and abhorrence of the audacious and desperate spirit of ambition, which has at last carried those leaders so far as to make them openly renounce all allegiance to the crown, and all political connection with this country; and in direct terms, to presume to set up their rebellious confederacies for independent states.

We consider their rejection of the gracious and condescending means of reconciliation, held out to them under the authority of your Majesty's commission, as a fresh and convincing proof that the object of these men has always been power and dominion; but we can impute the circumstances of indignity and insult accompanying this proceeding to no other motive than a resentment of your Majesty's firm and constant adherence to the maintenance of the constitutional rights of Parliament, divested of every possible view of any separate interests of the crown: and we beg leave to assure your Majesty, that the same attachment of your Majesty to the parliamentary authority of Great Britain, which hath provoked the insolence of the chiefs of this rebellion, cannot but operate, as it ought to do, in fixing your Majesty still deeper, if possible, in the affections of a British House of Commons.

With reverence and gratitude to divine Providence, permit us to express our unfeigned joy, and to offer our sincere congratulations to your Majesty on the success which has attended the good conduct and valour of your Majesty's officers and forces, both by sea and land, and the zeal and bravery of the auxiliary

troops in your service, in the recovery of Canada, and in the important operations in the province of New York, which give the strongest hope of the most decisive good consequences.

It is with much satisfaction we learn, that your Majesty continues to receive assurances of amity from the several courts of Europe : and we thankfully acknowledge your Majesty's goodness and paternal concern for the happiness of your people, in your constant attention to preserve the general tranquillity ; and it is our most earnest wish, that, by your Majesty's interposition, all misunderstandings and differences between two neighbouring powers may be happily reconciled, and Europe still enjoy the blessings of peace.

Your faithful Commons consider it as a duty which they owe to your Majesty, and to those they represent, to grant your Majesty such supplies as the weighty considerations which your Majesty has been pleased to state to us, shall be found to require ; and we have a well-grounded confidence, that, at this time, when the object of the rebels is openly avowed and clearly understood, the general conviction of the justice and necessity of your Majesty's measures must unite all ranks of your faithful subjects in supporting your Majesty with one mind and heart in the great national cause in which you are engaged.

*Message from his Majesty to the Houses of Lords and Commons,
April 9, 1777.*

GEORGE REX.

IT gives his Majesty much concern to find himself obliged to acquaint the House of Commons with the difficulties he labours under, by reason of debts incurred by the expences of his household, and his civil government ; which being computed on the 5th of January last, do amount to more than 600,000*l*. his Majesty relies on the loyalty and affection of his faithful Commons, of which he has received so many signal proofs, for enabling him to discharge this debt ; and that they will at the same time make some further provision for the better support of his Majesty's household, and of the honour and dignity of the crown.

G. R.

Speech of Mr. Speaker to his Majesty, in the House of Peers, on presenting Bills for his Royal Assent, May 7, 1777.

Most Gracious Sovereign,

THE bill which it is now my duty to present to your Majesty, is intituled, “ An act for the better support of his Majesty’s household, and of the honour and dignity of the crown of Great Britain;” to which your Commons humbly beg your royal assent.

By this bill, Sir, and the respectful circumstances which preceded and accompanied it, your Commons have given the fullest and clearest proof of their zeal and affection for your Majesty; for in a time of public distress, full of difficulty and danger, their constituents labour under burthens almost too heavy to be borne, your faithful Commons postponed all other business, and, with as much dispatch as the nature of their proceedings would admit, have not only granted to your Majesty a large present supply, but also a very great additional revenue; great beyond example; great beyond your Majesty’s highest expence.

But all this, Sir, they have done in a well-grounded confidence, that you will apply wisely, what they have granted liberally; and feeling, what every good subject must feel, with the greatest satisfaction, that under the direction of your Majesty’s wisdom, the affluence and grandeur of the sovereign will reflect dignity and honour upon his people.

Speech of Mr. Speaker to his Majesty, June 6, 1777.

Most gracious Sovereign,

YOUR Majesty’s loyal Commons have passed five money bills for the service of the current year. The first a bill for enabling your Majesty to defray the extra expences of the American war, and to make good the deficiency of the gold coin; the second for raising five millions by annuities, and for establishing a lottery; another for laying a tax upon servants; another for laying a tax upon auctions, and upon sales of estates, leases, and goods by auction; and another, for granting to your Majesty a certain sum out of the sinking fund, and for appropriating the several sums granted in this session to uses therein provided, to which your faithful Commons, Sir, humbly desire your assent. Your Commons, Sir, in the course of the present sessions, have applied themselves with all possible diligence to public business; and have done all in their power to procure the ease, happiness, and prosperity of your subjects; and have granted the most ample supplies. They have strengthened the
hands

hands of government, and have done all in their power to promote a speedy and effectual reconciliation with America. They are fully conscious how necessary it is that the troubles in America should be amicably settled, and that the legislative authority of this country should be established and maintained over all your Majesty's dominions. Your faithful Commons, firmly relying on your Majesty's wisdom and true regard to the interest of all your subjects, have strengthened your hands in the fullest manner, and have every right to expect that your Majesty's subjects in America will return to a proper sense of their duty; and that disorder and rebellion will give place to peace and conciliation.

His Majesty's most gracious Speech, June 6, 1777.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

THE conclusion of the public business, and the consideration of the inconvenience which I fear you must have suffered by so long an attendance, call upon me to put an end to this session of Parliament; but I cannot let you go into your several counties without expressing my entire approbation of your conduct, and without thanking you for the unquestionable proofs you have given to me and to all the world, of the continuance of your attachment to my person and government, of your clear discernment of the true interests of your country, and of your steady perseverance in maintaining the rights of the legislature.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I cannot sufficiently thank you for the zeal and public spirit with which you have granted the large and extraordinary supplies which I have found myself under the necessity of asking of my faithful Commons for the service of the current year; and I must at the same time acknowledge the particular marks of your affection to me, as well in enabling me to discharge the debts contracted on account of my civil government, as in making so considerable an augmentation to the civil list revenue during my life.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I trust in the divine Providence, that by a well concerted and vigorous exertion of the great force you have put into my hands, the operations of this campaign, by the assistance of which, will be blessed with such success as may most effectually promote the suppression of the rebellion in America, and to the re-establishment

ment of that constitutional obedience which all the subjects of a free state owe to the authority of the law.

Then the Lord Chancellor, by his Majesty's command, said,

My Lords and Gentlemen,

IT is his Majesty's royal will and pleasure, that this Parliament be prorogued to Monday the 21st day of July next, to be then here holden; and this Parliament is accordingly prorogued to Monday the 21st day of July next.

His Majesty's most gracious Speech, Nov. 20, 1777.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

IT is a great satisfaction to me that I can have recourse to the wisdom and support of my Parliament in this conjuncture, when the continuance of the rebellion in North America demands our most serious attention. The powers which you have intrusted me with for the suppression of this revolt have been faithfully exerted; and I have a just confidence that the conduct and courage of my officers, and the spirit and intrepidity of my forces, both by sea and land, will, under the blessing of divine Providence, be attended with important success; but as I am persuaded that you will see the necessity of preparing for such further operations as the contingencies of the war, and the obstinacy of the rebels may render expedient, I am, for that purpose, pursuing the proper measures for keeping my land forces complete to their present establishment; and if I should have occasion to increase them, by contracting any new engagements, I rely on your zeal and public spirit to enable me to make them good.

I receive repeated assurances from foreign powers of their pacific dispositions. My own cannot be doubted. But at this time, when the armaments in the ports of France and Spain continue, I have thought it adviseable to make a considerable augmentation in my naval force, as well to keep my kingdoms in a respectable state of security, as to provide an adequate protection for the extensive commerce of my subjects; and as, on the one hand, I am determined that the peace of Europe shall not be disturbed by me, so on the other, I will always be a faithful guardian of the honour of the crown of Great Britain.

Gentlemen

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I have ordered the estimates for the ensuing year to be laid before you. The various services which I have mentioned to you will unavoidably require large supplies, and nothing could relieve my mind from the concern which I feel for the heavy charge which they must bring on my faithful people, but the perfect conviction that they are necessary for the welfare and the essential interests of my kingdoms.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I will steadily pursue the measures in which we are engaged for the re-establishment of that constitutional subordination, which, with the blessing of God, I will maintain through the several parts of my dominions; but I shall ever be watchful for an opportunity of putting a stop to the effusion of the blood of my subjects, and the calamities which are inseparable from a state of war. And I still hope that the deluded and unhappy multitude will return to their allegiance; and that the remembrance of what they once enjoyed, the regret for what they have lost, and the feelings of what they now suffer under the arbitrary tyranny of their leaders, will rekindle in their hearts a spirit of loyalty to their sovereign, and of attachment to their mother country, and that they will enable me, with the concurrence and support of my Parliament, to accomplish what I shall consider as the greatest happiness of my life, and the greatest glory of my reign, the restoration of peace, order, and confidence to my American colonies.

Address by the House of Lords to his Majesty, Nov. 20, 1777.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Lords spiritual and temporal, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to return your Majesty our humble thanks for your most gracious speech from the throne.

Permit us, Sir, to offer our congratulations to your Majesty on the increase of your domestic happiness by the birth of another princess, and the recovery of your royal consort; who is most highly endeared to this nation, as well by her Majesty's eminent and amiable virtues, as by every new pledge of security to our religious and civil liberties.

We are duly sensible of your Majesty's goodness in recurring to the advice and support of your Parliament in the present conjuncture, when the rebellion in North America still continues :

tinues: and we return your Majesty our unfeigned thanks for having communicated to us the just confidence which your Majesty reposes in the zeal, intrepidity, and exertions of your Majesty's officers and forces, both by sea and land; but at the same time that we entertain a well founded hope of the important successes, which, under the blessing of Providence, may be expected, we cannot but applaud your Majesty's unwearied vigilance and wisdom, in recommending to us to prepare, at all events, for such further operations as the contingencies of the war, and the obduracy of the rebels may render expedient: we are therefore gratefully sensible of your Majesty's consideration in pursuing the measures necessary to keep your land forces complete to the present establishment; and we owe it both to your Majesty and ourselves to say, that we shall cheerfully concur in enabling your Majesty to make good such new engagements with foreign powers, for the augmentation of the auxiliary troops, as the weighty motives your Majesty has stated to us, may induce you to contract.

It is with great satisfaction we learn that your Majesty receives repeated assurances from foreign powers of their pacific dispositions; and with hearts full of gratitude and admiration, we acknowledge your Majesty's humane, steady, and dignified conduct, which is equally well calculated to demonstrate to the world, your Majesty's wish to preserve the general tranquillity of Europe, and your determination to maintain the honour of the crown, the security of these kingdoms, and the commercial interests of your subjects.

We thankfully receive your Majesty's declaration of perseverance in the measures now pursuing, for the re-establishment of a just and constitutional subordination through the several parts of your Majesty's dominions: and we beg leave to assure your Majesty that we participate the desire which at the same time animates your royal breast, to see a proper opportunity for putting an end to the effusion of blood, and the various calamities inseparable from a state of war.

The constant tenor of your Majesty's reign has shewn, that your whole attention is employed for the safety and happiness of all your people; and whenever our unhappy fellow-subjects in North America shall duly return to their allegiance, we shall readily concur in every wise and salutary measure which can contribute to restore confidence and order, and to fix the mutual welfare of Great Britain and her colonies on the most solid and permanent foundations.

His Majesty's most gracious Answer.

My Lords,

I THANK you for this very loyal and dutiful address, as well as for your congratulations on the increase of my family, and for the regard you express on this occasion, for the Queen.

The assurances you give me of your firm and temperate sentiments respecting the measures in which we are engaged, are highly agreeable to me ; and I persuade myself, that salutary effects must be the natural result of deliberations conducted on such principles. You will ever find that the favourite wish of my heart is to promote and effectuate the common happiness, and welfare of all my dominions.

Address by the House of Commons to his Majesty, Nov. 20, 1777.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons of Great Britain, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to return your Majesty the humble thanks of this House, for your most gracious speech from the throne.

Deeply interested in every event which tends to increase your Majesty's domestic felicity, and impressed with the liveliest sentiments of duty and attachment to the Queen, we beg leave to offer to your Majesty our congratulations on the birth of another prince, and on her Majesty's happy recovery.

We assure your Majesty that we take a sincere part in the confidence which your Majesty expresses, that the conduct and courage of your officers, and the spirit and intrepidity of your forces, both by sea and land, will, under divine Providence, be attended with important success ; but at the same time we entirely concur with your Majesty in thinking that it is necessary to prepare for such further operations as future events and contingencies of the war may render expedient ; and we learn with much satisfaction, that your Majesty is, for that purpose, pursuing the proper measures for keeping your land forces complete to their present establishment ; and whenever your Majesty shall be pleased to communicate to us any new engagements which you may have entered into for increasing your military force, we will take the same into our consideration ; and we trust your Majesty will not be disappointed in the gracious sentiments which you entertain of the zeal and public spirit of your faithful Commons.

We are truly sensible that your Majesty's constant care for the welfare of your people, and your generous concern for the happiness of mankind, dispose your Majesty to desire that the peace of Europe may not be disturbed ; but we acknowledge with equal gratitude, your Majesty's attention to the security of your kingdoms, and the protection of the extensive commerce of your subjects, in your having made a considerable augmentation to your naval force, on which the reputation and importance of this nation must ever principally depend : and we hear with the highest satisfaction, and rely with perfect confidence on your royal declaration, that your Majesty will always be the faithful guardian of the honour of the British crown.

. We beg leave to assure your Majesty that we will, without delay, enter into the consideration of the supplies of the ensuing year, and that we will cheerfully and effectually provide for all such expences as shall be found necessary for the welfare and essential interests of these kingdoms, and for the vigorous prosecution of the measures in which we are engaged, for the re-establishment of that constitutional subordination which we trust, with the blessing of God, your Majesty will be able to maintain through the several parts of your dominions.

We acknowledge with equal gratitude and admiration your Majesty's paternal declaration, that you will be ever watchful for an opportunity of putting a stop to the effusion of the blood of your subjects, and the calamities of war.

Permit us to assure your Majesty that we cannot but still entertain a hope that the discernment of their true interests, the remembrance of the blessings they once enjoyed, and the sense of their present sufferings under the arbitrary tyranny of their leaders, will induce the deluded and unhappy multitude to return to their allegiance, and will re-animate their hearts with a spirit of loyalty to their sovereign, and of attachment to their mother country.

The gracious and condescending manner in which your Majesty expresses your desire that you may be enabled to restore peace, order, and confidence to your American colonies, cannot fail of endearing you to the hearts of all your subjects : and we assure your Majesty, that when this great work can be accomplished and settled on the true principles of the constitution, your Majesty may depend on the most zealous concurrence and support of your faithful Commons.

His Majesty's most gracious Answer.

Gentlemen,

I RETURN you my hearty thanks for this dutiful address. The affectionate part you take in the happy recovery of the Queen, and the increase of my family, is highly acceptable to me.

The steady and zealous support of my faithful Commons will, I trust in God, enable me to put an end to this unhappy rebellion. Whatever strength you shall place in my hands, shall be employed only for the good of my people and the welfare of my kingdoms; and, be assured, that I wish for success in this great national cause for no other purpose but that it may enable me to restore peace and happiness to all my subjects.

Message from his Majesty to both Houses of Parliament, March 17, 1778.

GEORGE REX.

HIS Majesty having been informed, by order of the French King, that a treaty of amity and commerce has been signed between the Court of France and certain persons employed by his Majesty's revolted subjects in North America, has judged it necessary to direct that a copy of the declaration delivered by the French ambassador to Lord Viscount Weymouth, be laid before this House, and at the same time to acquaint them, that his Majesty has thought proper, in consequence of this offensive communication on the part of the Court of France, to send orders to his ambassador to withdraw from that court.

His Majesty is persuaded that the justice and good faith of his conduct towards foreign powers, and the sincerity of his wishes to preserve the tranquillity of Europe, will be acknowledged by all the world; and his Majesty trusts that he shall not stand responsible for the disturbance of that tranquillity if he should find himself called upon to resent so unprovoked and so unjust an aggression on the honour of his crown and the essential interests of his kingdoms, contrary to the most solemn assurances, subversive of the law of nations, and injurious to the rights of every sovereign power in Europe.

His Majesty, relying with the firmest confidence on the zealous and affectionate support of his faithful people, is determined to be prepared to exert, if it shall become necessary, all the force and resources of his kingdoms, which he trusts will

be found adequate to repel every insult and attack, and to maintain and uphold the power and reputation of this country.

G. R.

Lord North presented to the House of Commons, by his Majesty's Command, the Rescript delivered to Lord Viscount Weymouth by the French Ambassador, dated March 13, 1778.

THE under-written ambassador of his Most Christian Majesty has received an express order to deliver to the Court of London the following declaration:

“ The United States of North America, which are in full possession of independence, declared by their act of the 4th of July, 1776, having caused a proposal to be made to the King, to consolidate by a formal convention, the connections that have begun to be established between the two nations, the respective plenipotentiaries have signed a treaty of amity and commerce, intended to serve as a basis for their mutual good correspondence.

“ His Majesty being resolved to cultivate the good understanding subsisting between France and Great Britain, by all the means compatible with his dignity and the good of his subject, thinks that he ought to impart this step to the Court of London, and to declare, at the same time, that the contracting parties have had attention not to stipulate any exclusive advantages in favour of the French nation; and that the United States have preserved the liberty of treating with all nations whatsoever, on the same footing of equality and reciprocity.

“ In making this communication to the Court of London, the King is firmly persuaded that it will find in it fresh proofs of his Majesty's constant and sincere disposition for peace, and that his Britannic Majesty, animated by the same sentiments, will equally avoid every thing that may interrupt their harmony; and that he will take, in particular, effectual measures to prevent the commerce between his Majesty's subjects and the United States of North America from being disturbed, and to cause to be observed in this respect the usages received between trading nations, and the rules that may be deemed subsisting between the crowns of France and Great Britain.

“ In this just confidence, the under-written ambassador thinks it superfluous to apprise the British minister that the King his master, being determined effectually to protect the lawful freedom of the commerce of his subjects, and to sustain the honour of his flag, his Majesty has taken, in consequence,
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eventual measures in concert with the United States of North America.

(Signed)

LE M. DE NOAILLES."

London, March 13, 1778.

Address by the House of Lords to his Majesty, March 17, 1778.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, in Parliament assembled, return our humble thanks to your Majesty, for the communication of the paper presented to the Lord Viscount Weymouth, by the order of the French King; and for acquainting us that, in consequence of this offensive declaration, your Majesty has thought proper to order your ambassador to withdraw from the court of France; and we beg leave to assure your Majesty, that it is with the utmost difficulty we can restrain the strongest expressions of the resentment and indignation which we feel for this unjust and unprovoked aggression on the honour of your Majesty's crown, and the essential interests of your kingdoms, contrary to the law of nations, and injurious to the rights and possessions of every sovereign power in Europe.

The good faith and uprightness of your Majesty's conduct towards foreign powers, and the sincerity of your intentions to preserve the general tranquillity, must be acknowledged by all the world; and your Majesty cannot be considered as responsible for the disturbance of this tranquillity, if you should find yourself called upon to resist the enterprises of that restless and dangerous spirit of ambition and aggrandizement which has so often invaded the rights and threatened the liberties of Europe.

We should be wanting in our duty to your Majesty and to ourselves, if we did not give your Majesty the strongest assurances of our most zealous assistance and support: every sentiment of loyalty to your Majesty, and love to our country, will animate us to stand forth in the public defence, and to promote every measure that shall be found necessary for enabling your Majesty to vindicate the honour of your crown, and to protect the just rights and essential interests of these kingdoms.

His Majesty's most gracious Answer.

My Lords,

I THANK you for this loyal and affectionate address. Nothing shall be wanting on my part that may tend to the effectual support of the just rights of my crown and the true interests of my people. These great and important considerations shall ever be the immediate object of my attention.

Address of the House of Commons to his Majesty, March 17, 1778.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful subjects, the Commons of Great Britain in Parliament assembled, return our humble thanks to your Majesty for the communication of the paper presented to the Lord Viscount Weymouth, by the order of the French King; and for acquainting us that, in consequence of this offensive declaration, your Majesty has thought proper to order your ambassador to withdraw from the court of France: and we beg leave to assure your Majesty that it is with the utmost difficulty we can restrain the strongest expressions of the resentment and indignation which we feel for this unjust and unprovoked aggression on the honour of your Majesty's crown, and the essential interests of your kingdoms, contrary to the law of nations, and injurious to the rights and possessions of every sovereign power in Europe.

The good faith and uprightness of your Majesty's conduct towards foreign powers, and the sincerity of your intentions to preserve the general tranquillity, must be acknowledged by all the world: and your Majesty cannot be considered as responsible for the disturbance of this tranquillity, if you should find yourself called upon to resist the enterprizes of that restless and dangerous spirit of ambition and aggrandizement which has so often invaded the rights and threatened the liberties of Europe.

We should be wanting in our duty to your Majesty, to our constituents, and to ourselves, if we did not give your Majesty the strongest assurances of our most zealous assistance and support: and we have the firmest confidence that in every demonstration of loyalty to your Majesty and of love of their country, your faithful subjects will vie with each other; and that no considerations will divert or deter them from standing forth in the public defence, and from sustaining, with a steady
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perseverance, any extraordinary burthens and expences, which shall be found necessary for enabling your Majesty to vindicate the honour of your crown, and to protect the just rights and essential interests of these kingdoms.

His Majesty's most gracious Answer.

Gentlemen,

I RETURN you my hearty thanks for this very dutiful and affectionate address: I make no doubt that, assisted by the advice of my Parliament, and supported by the spirit of my people, I shall, under the divine Providence, be enabled to repel every insult on the honour of my crown, to maintain the rights of my subjects, and to defend all my dominions.

Message from his Majesty to the House of Commons, March 23, 1778.

GEORGE III.

THE French King having concluded a treaty of amity and commerce with his Majesty's revolted subjects in North America, and his Majesty having received advice that the war-like preparations in France become every day more considerable, his Majesty thinks that in this critical conjuncture he should not act consistently with the care and concern which he always feels for his faithful people, if he omitted any means in his power that may contribute to their defence: therefore, in pursuance of the acts of Parliament, enabling his Majesty to call out and assemble the militia, in the cases therein mentioned, his Majesty has thought it right to make this communication to the House of Commons, to the end that his Majesty may, if he shall think proper, cause the militia to be drawn out and embodied, and to march as occasion shall require.

G. R.

Manifesto, displaying the Motives and Conduct of his most Christian Majesty towards England.

WHEN the Sovereign Disposer of events called his Majesty to the throne, France enjoyed the most profound peace. The first concern of his Majesty was to signify to all the powers of Europe his sincere desire, that the blessings of peace might be perpetuated to his kingdom. This gracious

disposition of his Majesty was generally applauded; the King of England in particular testified his satisfaction, and gave his Majesty the most expressive assurances of sincere friendship. Such a reciprocity of sentiment justified his Majesty in believing that the Court of London was at last disposed to adopt a mode of conduct more equitable and friendly than that which had been adopted since the conclusion of the peace of 1763, and that a final stop would be put to those various acts of tyranny which his subjects had in every quarter of the globe experienced on the part of England, from the era above mentioned. His Majesty persuaded himself that he could still place the greater reliance on the King of England's protestations, as the primordial seed of the American revolution began to unfold itself in a manner highly alarming to the interest of Great Britain.

But the Court of London, vainly imputing that to fear or feebleness, which was only the natural effect of his Majesty's pacific disposition, strictly adhered to her customary system, and continued every harassing act of violence against the commerce and the navigation of his Majesty's subjects. His Majesty represented these outrages to the King of England with the utmost candour, and judging of his sentiments by his own, his Majesty had the greatest confidence that the grievances would be no sooner made known to the King of England than he would redress them. Nay, further, his Majesty being thoroughly acquainted with the embarrassing which the affairs of North America had occasioned the Court of London, charitably forbore to increase that embarrassment, by insisting too hastily on those reparations of injuries which the English ministers had never ceased to promise, nor ever failed to evade.

Such was the position of affairs between the two courts, when the measures of the Court of London compelled the English colonists to have recourse to arms to preserve their rights, their privileges, and their liberty. The whole world knows the era when this brilliant event shone forth; the multiplied and unsuccessful efforts made by the Americans to be reinstated in the bosom of their mother country, the disdainful manner in which they were spurned by England, and, finally, the act of Independence, which was at length, and could not but have been the necessary result of this treatment.

The war in which the United States of North America found themselves involved, with regard to England, necessarily compelled them to explore the means of forming connections with the other powers of Europe, and of opening a direct commerce with them. His Majesty would have neglected

lected the most essential interests of his kingdom, were he to have refused the Americans admission into his ports, or that participation of commercial advantages which is enjoyed by every other nation.

This conduct, so much the result of justice and of wisdom, was adopted by far the greater part of the commercial states of Europe; yet it gave occasion to the Court of London to prefer her representations, and give vent to all the bitterness of complaint. She imagined, no doubt, that she had but to employ her usual style of haughtiness and ambition, to obtain of France an unbounded deference to her will. But, to the most unreasonable propositions, and the most intemperate measures, his Majesty opposed nothing but the calmness of justice and the moderation of reason. His Majesty gave the King of England plainly to understand that he neither was, nor did he pretend to be a judge of the disputes with his colonies; much less would it become his Majesty to avenge his quarrel: that in consequence his Majesty was under no obligation to treat the Americans as rebels, to exclude them from his ports, and to prohibit them from all commercial intercourse with his subjects. Notwithstanding, his Majesty was very ready to shackle, as much as depended on him, the exportation of arms and military stores; and gave the most positive assurance, not only that he would not protect this species of commerce, but that he would also allow England free permission to stop those of his subjects who should be detected in carrying on such illicit traffic, observing only the faith of treaties and the laws and the usages of the sea. His Majesty went still further: he was scrupulously exact in observing every commercial stipulation in the treaty of Utrecht, although it was daily violated by the Court of London, and England, at the very time, had refused to ratify it in all its parts. As a consequence of the amicable part thus taken by his Majesty, he interdicted the American privateers from aiming in his ports; he would neither suffer them to sell their prizes, nor to remain one moment longer in the ports of France, than was consistent with the stipulations of the above treaty. His Majesty strictly enjoined his subjects not to purchase such prizes; and, in case of disobedience, they were threatened with confiscation. These acts, on the part of his Majesty, had the desired effect: but all these acts, distinguished as well by their condescension as by their strict adherence to the spirit and letter of a treaty which his Majesty (had he been so disposed) might have considered as non-existing; all these acts were far from satisfying the Court of London. That court affected to consider his Majesty as responsible for all transgressions, although the King of England, not-

notwithstanding a solemn act of Parliament, could not himself prevent his own merchants from furnishing the North-American colonies with merchandize, and even military stores.

It is easy to conceive how the refusal of yielding to the assuming demands and arbitrary pretensions of England would mortify the self-sufficiency of that power, and revive its ancient animosity to France. She was the more irritated, from her having begun to experience some checks in America, which prognosticated to her the irrevocable separation of her colonies; and from foreseeing the inevitable calamities and losses following such a separation, and observing France profiting by that commerce, which she, with an inconsiderate hand, had thrown away, and adopting every means to render her flag respectable.

These are the combined causes which have increased the despair of the Court of London, and have led her to cover the seas with her privateers, furnished with letters of marque conceived in the most offensive terms; to violate without scruple the faith of treaties; to harass, under the most frivolous and absurd pretences, the trade and navigation of his Majesty's subjects; to assume to herself a tyrannical empire of the sea; to prescribe unknown and inadmissible laws and regulations; to insult, on many occasions, his Majesty's flag; in short, to infringe on his territories, as well in Europe as in America, in the most marked and characteristic style of insult.

If his Majesty had been less attentive to the sacred rights of humanity; if he had been more prodigal of the blood of his subjects; in short, if, instead of following the benevolent impulse of his nature, he had sought to avenge wounded honour, he could not have hesitated a moment to make use of reprisals, and to repel those insults which had been offered to his dignity by the force of his arms. But his Majesty stifled even his just resentments. He was desirous that the measure of his goodness might overflow, because he still retained such an opinion of his enemies as to expect they would yield that to moderation and amicable adjustment on his part which their own interests required of them.

It was these considerations which moved his Majesty to detail the whole of his complaints to the Court of London: this detail was accompanied with the most serious representations, his Majesty being desirous that the King of England should not be left in any uncertainty, as to his Majesty's actual determination to maintain his own dignity inviolate; to protect the rights and interests of his subjects, and to render his flag respectable. But the Court of London affected to observe an offensive silence on every grievance represented by his Majesty's
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ambassador ; and when it was determined to vouchsafe an answer, it was an easy matter to deny the best authenticated facts ; to advance principles contrary to the law of nations ; to positive treaties ; to marine usage ; and to encourage judgments without justice, and confiscations without mercy, not leaving the injured even the means of appeal. At the same time that the Court of London put the moderation and forbearance of the King to the severest trial, in the ports of England there were preparations making and armaments equipping, which could not have America for their object ; the design was too determinate to be mistaken. His Majesty, therefore, found it indispensable to make such dispositions on his part as might be sufficient to prevent the evil designs of his enemy, at the same time provide against depredations and insults similar to those committed in 1755.

In this state of things, his Majesty, who had hitherto rejected the overtures of the United States of North America, (and that in contradiction to his most pressing interests) now perceived that he had not a moment to lose in concluding a treaty with them. Their independence had been declared and established ; England herself had in some sort recognized that independence, by permitting the existence of acts which carried every implication of sovereignty. Had it been the intention of his Majesty to deceive England, and to adopt measures for the purpose of covering the deception, he might have drawn the veil of secrecy over his engagements with his now allies ; but the principles of justice, which have ever directed his Majesty, and his sincere desire of preserving peace, were decisive inducements for him to pursue a conduct more generous and noble : his Majesty conceived it a duty which he owed to himself to notify to the King of England the alliance he had formed with the United States. Nothing could be more simple or less offensive than the rescript delivered by his Majesty's ambassador to the British minister. But the Council of St. James's were not of this opinion, and the King of England, after having first broken the peace, by recalling his ambassador, announced to his Parliament the declaration of his Majesty, as an *act* of hostility, as a formal and premeditated aggression. It would be insulting credulity to suppose it can be believed that his Majesty's recognition of the independence of the Thirteen United States of America, should of itself have so irritated the King of England ; that prince, without doubt, is well acquainted with all those instances of the kind which not only the British annals but his own reign can furnish. His resentment is founded on another principle. The French treaty defeated and rendered useless the plan formed at

London, for the sudden and precarious coalition that was about to be formed with America, and it baffled those secret projects adopted by his Britannic Majesty for that purpose. The real cause of that extreme animosity which the King of England has manifested, and which he has communicated to his Parliament, was the not being able to regain America, and turn her arms against France.

A conduct thus extraordinary, taught his Majesty what he had to expect from the Court of London; and, even had there remained a possibility of doubt, the immense preparations carrying on in the different ports of England with redoubled vigour, would have cleared up the doubt. Measures so manifestly directed against France, had the effect of imposing a law on his Majesty; he put himself in a condition to repel force by force; it was with this view that he hastened the equipment of his armaments, and that he dispatched a squadron to America under the command of Comte D'Estaing.

It is notorious that the armaments of France were in a condition to act offensively long before those of England were prepared. It was in his Majesty's power to have made a sudden and a most sensible impression on England. The king was avowedly engaged in the enterprize, and his plans were on the point of being carried into execution, when the bare whisper of peace stayed his hand, and suspended their execution. His Catholic Majesty imparted to the King the desire of the Court of London to avail herself of the mediation of Spain on the subject of conciliation. But his Catholic Majesty would not engage to act as mediator, without a previous assurance of his good offices being unequivocally accepted, in a case where he interposed without being made acquainted with the principal objects which were to serve as the basis of the negotiation.

The King received the overture with a satisfaction proportioned to the wish he had uniformly expressed for the continuance of peace. Notwithstanding the King of Spain had professed it to be a matter of perfect indifference to him whether his mediation was accepted or not; and that, notwithstanding the overtures he made, he left the King, his nephew, entirely at liberty to act as he thought proper, yet his Majesty not only consented to the mediation, but he immediately countermanded the sailing of the Brest fleet, and he agreed to communicate his conditions of peace the moment that England should express in positive terms a desire of reconciliation, in which the United States of North America were to be comprehended, France by no means entertaining an idea of abandoning them; there could not surely be any thing more conformable to the ostensible wishes of the Court of London than this proposal.

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His Catholic Majesty lost not a moment to discuss the business with the King of England and his minister; but it was quickly discovered by the Court of Madrid that the English ministers were not sincere in their overtures for peace. The British minister talked expressly of his Majesty withdrawing the rescript which had been delivered by his ambassador on the 13th of March, 1778, as a preliminary and absolutely necessary step to reconciliation. Such an answer was injurious to Spain as well as to France; and it developed the hostile intentions of England, in the clearest point of view. Both monarchs viewed each other with amazement, and although his Majesty always animated with the love of peace, left the Catholic King to act as he thought most prudent with respect to continuing his mediation, yet he judged it expedient to command his *chargé des affaires* at London, to observe a profound silence on the subject.

The hope of peace continued, however, to flatter the disposition of his Majesty, until the fleets commanded by the Admirals Keppel and Byron sailed out of port. Then it was that the veil of deception which had served to cover the real intentions of the Court of London, was rent asunder. It was no longer possible to place confidence in her insidious professions, nor could the aggressive design of England be any longer doubted. The face of things being thus changed, his Majesty found himself obliged to make an alteration in those measures he had previously adopted, for the security of his possessions, and to preserve the commerce of his subjects. The event will very soon demonstrate his Majesty's foresight to have been just.

The world can witness in what manner his Majesty's frigate the *Belle Poule* was attacked by an English frigate, within view of the coast of France, nor is it less notorious that two other frigates and a smaller vessel were surprized and carried into the ports of England. The departure of the fleet under *Compte d'Orvilliers* became absolutely necessary, to frustrate the designs of the enemies of his Majesty's crown, and to revenge the insults his flag had received. Providence disposed the triumph in favour of his Majesty's arms: *Compte d'Orvilliers*, after being attacked by the English fleet, forced them to retreat with considerable damage.

Since that period, hostilities have been continued without any declaration of war. The Court of London has not declared it, because she would be wanting in reasons to justify her conduct. Nor has she dared to accuse France publicly of being the aggressor, after three of his Majesty's vessels had been captured by the English fleet; and she felt that she would have
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ample cause to blush, when the execution of those orders she had sent clandestinely to India should have opened the eyes of all Europe to the degree of reliance which can be placed in her pacific professions, and should have enabled every power in it to determine to which of the two powers, France or England, the term of *perfidious* most properly applies, an epithet which the English minister loses no opportunity of bestowing upon France.

As to the King, if he has deferred notifying to the world the multiplied injuries he has sustained from the Court of London; if he has delayed demonstrating the absolute necessity of his having recourse to arms; such a procrastination on the part of his Majesty has been owing to a fond hope that the English minister would at last recollect himself, and that either justice, or the more critical situation into which he has plunged his country, would have prevailed on him to change his conduct.

This hope appeared to have been the better founded, as the English minister was continually dispatching his emissaries to sound his Majesty's dispositions, at the very time the King of Spain was negotiating with him for peace. His Majesty, so far from belying those sentiments which he had always expressed, listened with eagerness to the advice of the King, his uncle; and, to convince that prince of his persevering sincerity, his Majesty entrusted him, without reserve, with those very moderate conditions, on which his Majesty would most gladly have laid down his arms.

The Catholic King communicated to the Court of London the assurances he had received from his Majesty, and he urged that court to perfect the reconciliation which she had long so earnestly affected to desire. But the English minister, although constantly feigning a desire of peace, never returned an ingenuous answer to the King of Spain, but was perpetually insulting his Catholic Majesty with a tender of inadmissible propositions, quite foreign to the subject of dispute.

It was now clear, from the most indisputable evidence, that England did not wish for peace, and that she negotiated for no other purpose but to gain time to make the necessary preparations for war. The King of Spain was perfectly sensible of this truth; nor was he less sensible how much his own dignity was committed, yet his heart anticipated the calamities of war, and he forgot his own wrongs in his anxious wish for peace. He even suggested a new plan of a cessation of arms for a term of years. This plan was perfectly agreeable to his Majesty, on condition that the United States of America should be comprized in the proposal, and that during the truce, they should be treated as independent. To render it more easy for the King
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of England to subscribe to this essential stipulation, his Majesty consented that he should either treat immediately with congress, or through the mediation of the King of Spain.

In consequence of these overtures, his Catholic Majesty dispatched his plan to the Court of London. Besides the time limited for the suspension of hostilities (during which the United States were to be considered as independent *de facto*) his Catholic Majesty took it on himself to propose, relative to America, that each party should have the possession of what they occupied at the time of signing the treaty of suspension, guaranteed to them. Such infinite pains did the King of Spain take to stop the effusion of human blood !

There is not a doubt but that these conditions must appear to every well judging person such as would have been accepted; they were, however, formally rejected by the Court of London, nor has that Court shewn any disposition to peace, unless on the absurd condition that his Majesty should abandon the Americans, and leave them to themselves.

After this afflicting declaration, the continuation of the war is become inevitable, and therefore his Majesty has invited the Catholic King to join him in virtue of their reciprocal engagements, to avenge their respective injuries, and to put an end to that tyrannical empire which England has usurped, and pretends to maintain upon the ocean.

This sacred exposure of the political views, and the progressive series of events which have occasioned the present rupture between the Courts of Versailles and London, will enable all Europe to draw a parallel between the conduct of his Majesty, and that of the King of England, to render justice to the purity and directness of intention, which during the whole of the dispute has characterised his Majesty, and finally, all Europe will be enabled by this publication to judge, which of the two sovereigns is the real author of the war which afflicts their kingdoms, and which of the two potentates will be answerable at the tribunal of Heaven, for that train of calamities occasioned by the war !

The justifying Memorial of the King of Great Britain, in Answer to the Exposition, &c. of the Court of France.

THE ambition of a power, ever a foe to public tranquillity, hath at length obliged the King of Great Britain to employ the strength which God and his people have confided to him, in a just and lawful war.—It is in vain that France endeavours

deavours to justify, or rather disguise, in the eyes of Europe, by her last manifesto, the politics which seem to be dictated by pride and cunning, but which cannot be reconciled with the truth of facts, and the rights of nations. That equity, moderation, and love of peace, which have always regulated the steps of the King, now engage him to submit the conduct of himself and his enemies to the judgment of a free and respectable tribunal, which will pronounce, without fear or flattery, the decree of Europe to the present age, and to posterity — This tribunal, composed of the understanding and disinterested men of all nations, will never regard professions; and it is from the actions of princes, that they ought to judge of the motives of their conduct, and the sentiments of their hearts.

When the King ascended the throne, he enjoyed the success of his aims in the four quarters of the world! His moderation re-established public tranquillity, at the same time that he supported with firmness the glory of his crown, and procured the most solid advantages to his people. Experience had taught him how bitter and afflicting even the fruits of victory are; and how much wars, whether happy or unsuccessful, exhaust a people without aggrandizing their princes. His actions proved to the world, that he knew the value of peace, and it was at least to be presumed, that that reason which had enlightened him to discern the inevitable calamities of war, and the dangerous vanity of conquest, inspired him with the sincere and unshaken resolution of maintaining the public repose, of which he was himself the author and guarantee. These principles were the foundations of that conduct which his Majesty held invariably for fifteen years which followed the peace concluded at Paris in 1763; that happy era of quiet and happiness will be preserved for a long time, by the recollection, perhaps the regret, of the European nations. The instructions of the King to all his ambassadors were impressed with the marks of his character and maxims.

He recommended it to them, as the most important part of their duty, to listen, with the most scrupulous attention to the complaints and representations of the powers, his neighbours or allies; to stifle in the beginning, all grounds of quarrel that might embitter or alienate the minds of men; to turn aside the scourge of war by every expedient compatible with the dignity of the sovereign of a respectable nation; and to inspire all people with a just confidence on the political system of a court which detested war without fearing it; which employed no other means than those of reason and sincerity, and which had no other object, but the general tranquillity. In the midst of this calm, the first sparks of discord were kindled

kindled in America. The intrigues of a few bold and criminal leaders, who abused the credulous simplicity of their countrymen, insensibly seduced the greatest part of the English colonies to raise the standard of revolt against the mother country; to which they were indebted for their existence and their happiness. The court of Versailles easily forgot the faith of treaties, the duties of allies, and the right of sovereigns, to endeavour to profit of circumstances, which appeared favourable to its ambitious designs. It did not blush to debase its dignity by the secret connections it formed with rebellious subjects; and after having exhausted all the shameful resources of perfidy and dissimulation, it dared to avow, in the face of Europe (full of indignation at its conduct) the solemn treaty which the ministers of the most Christian King had signed with the dark agents of the English colonies, who founded their pretended independence on nothing but the daringness of their revolt. The offensive declaration which the Marquis de Noailles was ordered to make to the Court of London, on the 13th of March, in the last year, authorized his Majesty to repel, by force of arms, the unheard of insult that was offered to the honour of his crown; and the King remembered, on that important occasion, what he owed to his subjects and himself. The same spirit of impetuosity and ambition continued to reign in the councils of France.—Spain, who has, more than once, repented having neglected her true interests, to follow blindly the destructive projects of the elder branch of the house of Bourbon, was engaged to change the part of mediator for that of enemy of Great Britain. The calamities of war are multiplied, but the Court of Versailles hath, hitherto, nothing to boast of the success of its military operations; and Europe knows well how to rate those naval victories, which exist no where but in the gazettes and manifestos of pretended conquerors.

Since war and peace impose on nations duties entirely different, and even opposite, it is indispensably necessary to distinguish, in reasoning, as well as in conduct, the two conditions: but in the last manifesto published by France, these two conditions are perpetually confounded: she pretends to justify her conduct in making the best, by turns, nay, almost at the same time, of those rights which an enemy only is permitted to claim, and of those maxims which regulate the obligations and procedure of national friendship. The finess of the Court of Versailles, in blending incessantly two suppositions which have no connection, is the natural consequence of a false and treacherous policy, which cannot bear the light of

the day. The sentiments and conduct of the King have nothing to fear from the most severe scrutiny ; but, on the contrary, invites it to distinguish clearly what his enemies have contounded with so much artifice. Justice alone can speak without fear, the language of reason and truth.

The full justification of his Majesty, and the indelible condemnation of France, may be reduced to the proof of two simple, and almost self-evident principles — First, That a profound, permanent, and, on the part of England, a sincere and true peace subsisted between the two nations, when France formed connections with the revolted colonies, secret at first, but afterwards public and avowed.—Secondly, That according to the best acknowledged maxims of the rights of nations, and even according to the tenor of treaties actually subsisting between the two crowns, these connections might be regarded as an infraction of the peace ; and the public avowal of these connections was equivalent to a declaration of war on the part of the most Christian King.—This is, perhaps, the first time that a respectable nation had an occasion to prove two truths so incontestable, the memory of which is already acknowledged by every disinterested and unprejudiced person.

“ When Providence called the King to the throne, France enjoyed a most profound peace.” These are the expressions of the last manifesto of the Court of Versailles, which easily remember the solemn assurances of a sincere friendship, and the most pacific disposition which it received from his Britannic Majesty, and which were often renewed by the intervention of ambassadors to the two courts, during four years, until the fatal and decisive moment of the declaration of the Marquis de Noailles. The question, then, is to prove, that during this happy time of general tranquillity, England concealed a secret war under the appearance of peace ; and that her unjust and arbitrary procedure was carried to such a pitch, as to render lawful, on the part of France, the boldest steps, which are permissible only in a declared enemy. To attain this object, griefs clearly articulated and solidly established, should be produced before the tribunal of Europe. This great tribunal will require formal, and, perhaps, repeated proofs of the injury, of the complaint, of a refusal of competent satisfaction, and of a protestation of the injured party, that it held itself highly offended by such refusal, and that it should look upon itself hereafter as released from the duties of friendship and the bonds of treaties. Those nations which respect the sanctity of oaths, and the advantages of peace, are the slowest to catch hold of opportunities which seem to discharge them from a sacred

sacred and solemn obligation; and it is but with trembling that they dare to renounce the friendship of powers, from which they have long borne injustice and insult.

But the Court of Versailles hath been either ignorant of these wise and salutary principles, or it hath despised them; and, instead of fixing the foundations of a just and legitimate war, it hath contented itself to spread through every page of its manifesto, general and vague complaints, expressed with exaggerations in a metaphorical style. It goes above threescore years back to accuse England of her want of care to ratify some commercial regulations, some articles of the treaty of Utrecht. It presumes to reproach the King's ministers with using the language of haughtiness and ambition without condescending to the duty of proving imputations as unlikely as they are odious. The free suppositions of the ambition and insincerity of the Court of London, are confessedly healed up, as if they feared to be discriminated, the pretended insults which the commerce, the flag, and the territories of France, have undergone, are insinuated in a very obscure manner, and at last there escapes an avowal of the engagement which the most Christian King had already made with Spain, "to avenge their respective wrongs, and put bounds to the tyrannical empire which England had usurped, and pretended to maintain over every sea."

It is difficult to encounter phantoms, or to answer closely and precisely to the language of declamation. The just confidence of the King would doubtless desire to submit to the strictest examination, those vague complaints, those pretended wrongs, upon which the Court of Versailles has so prudently avoided to explain itself, with that clearness and particularity which alone could support its reasons, and excuse its conduct. During a fifteen years peace, the interests of two powerful, and perhaps jealous nations, which approached in so many places in the old and new world, would inevitably furnish subjects of complaint and discussion, which a reciprocal moderation would always know how to settle, but which are but too easily sharpened and poisoned by the real hatred, or affected suspicions, of a secret and ambitious enemy: and the troubles of America were but too apt to multiply the hopes, the pretexts, and the unjust pretensions of France. Nevertheless, such has been the ever uniform, and ever peaceable conduct of the King and his ministers, that it hath often silenced his enemies; and if it may be permitted to discover the true sense of these indefinite and equivocal accusations, whose studied obscurity betrays the features to shame and artifice—if it may be permitted of contested objects which have no existence, it may

be affirmed with the boldness of truth, that several of these pretended injuries are announced for the first time in a declaration of war, without having been proposed to the Court of London, at a time when they might have been considered with the serious and favourable attention of friendship. In respect to those complaints which the ambassadors of his most Christian Majesty have communicated from time to time to the King's ministers, it would be easy to give, or rather to repeat satisfactory answers, which would demonstrate, to the eyes of France herself, the King's moderation, his love of justice, and the sincerity of his disposition to preserve the general tranquillity of Europe. Those complaints, which the Court of Versailles may dispense with recollecting, were very rarely founded in truth and reason; and it was most generally found that those persons in Europe, America, or on the seas, from whom an ill-founded and suspected intelligence was derived, had not been afraid to abuse the confidence of France, the better to serve her secret intentions.

If some facts, which France inhauced as the ground of her complaints, were built on a less brittle foundation, the King's ministers cleared them without delay, by a most clear and entire justification of the motives and rights of their sovereign, who might punish a contraband trade on his coast, without wounding the public repose; and to whom the law of nations gave a lawful right to seize all vessels which carried arms or warlike stores to his enemies, or rebellious subjects. The courts of justice were always open to individuals of all nations, and those must be very ignorant of the British constitution, who suppose that the royal authority was capable to shut out the means of an appeal. In the vast and extended theatre of the operations of a naval war, the most active vigilance, and the most steady authority, are unable to discover or suppress every disorder; but every time that the Court of Versailles was able to establish the truth of any real injuries that its subjects had sustained, without the knowledge or approbation of the King, his Majesty gave the most speedy and effectual orders to stop an abuse which injured his own dignity, as well as the interest of his neighbours, who had been involved in the calamities of war. The object and importance of this war will suffice to shew all Europe, on what principles the political proceedings of England ought to be regulated. Is it likely, that whilst England employed her forces to bring the revolted colonies of America back to their duty, she should have chosen that moment to irritate the most respectable powers of Europe, by the injustice and violence of her conduct? Equity hath always governed the sentiments and conduct of the King, but on this

this important occasion, his very prudence is a warrant for his sincerity and moderation.

But to establish clearly the pacific system that subsists between the two nations, nothing more is wanting than to appeal to the very testimony of the Court of Versailles. At the very time in which it doth not blush to place all these pretended infractions of the public peace, which would have engaged a prince less sparing of his subjects blood, to make, without hesitation, reprisals, and to repel insult by force of arms, the minister of the most Christian King spoke the language of confidence and friendship. Instead of denouncing any design of vengeance, with that haughty tone which at least spares injustice from the reproaches of perfidy and dissimulation, the Court of Versailles concealed the most treacherous conduct under the smoothest professions. But those very professions serve, at present, to belie its declaration, and to call to mind those sentiments which ought to have regulated its conduct. If the Court of Versailles is unwilling to be accused of a dissimulation unworthy of its grandeur, it will be forced to acknowledge, that till the moment that it dictated to the Marquis de Noailles, that declaration which has been received as the signal of war, it did not know any grounds of complaint, sufficiently real or important, to authorize a violation of the obligations of peace, and the faith of treaties, to which it had sworn in the face of heaven and earth; and to disengage from that amity, to which, to the last moment, it had repeated the most solemn and lively assurances.

When an adversary is incapable of justifying his violence in the public opinion, or even in his own eyes, by the injuries which he pretends to have received, he has recourse to the chimerical danger to which his patience might have been exposed; and in the place of facts, of which he is totally unprovided, he endeavours to substitute a vain picture, which hath existence only in his own imagination, perhaps his own heart. The minister of the most Christian King, who seems to have felt the weakness of the means they were forced to employ, yet make impotent efforts to support those means by the most odious and unaccountable suspicions. "The Court of London made preparations in its ports, and armaments, which could not have America for their object. Their intention was consequently too well determined for the King to mistake them, and from thence it became their duty to make such dispositions, as were capable of preventing the evil designs of his enemy, &c. In this state of affairs, the King found he had not a moment to lose." This is the language of France; now we will shew that of *truth*.

During the disputes which had arisen between Great Britain and her colonies, the Court of Versailles applied itself, with the most lively and determined ardor, to the augmentation of her marine. The King did not “pretend to reign as a tyrant of the sea,” but knows, that at all times, maritime forces have constituted the glory and safety of his dominions, and that they have often protected the liberty of Europe, against the ambitious state which hath so long laboured to subdue it.

A sense of his dignity, and a just knowledge of his duty and his interest, engaged his Majesty to watch, with an attentive eye, over the proceedings of France, whose dangerous policy, without a motive, and without an enemy, precipitated the building and arming of ships in all her ports, and which employed a considerable part of her revenues in the expence of those military preparations, the necessity or object of which it was impossible to declare. In that conjuncture the King could not avoid following the counsel of his prudence, and the example of his neighbours. The successive augmentation of their marine served as a rule for his, and without wounding the respect that he owed to friendly powers, his Majesty declared publicly to his Parliament, that England should be in a respectable state of defence. The naval force which he had so carefully strengthened, was designed only to maintain the general tranquillity of Europe, and whilst the dictates of his own conscience disposed the King to give credit to the professions of the Court of Versailles, he prepared to have nothing to fear from the perfidious designs of its ambition. France now dares to suppose that the King, “instead of confining himself within the limits of a lawful defence, gave him self up to a hope of conquest, and that the reconciliation of Great Britain with her colonies, announced, on her part, a fixed project of reviving them with her crown, to arm them against France.” Since, then, that the Court of Versailles cannot excuse its procedure, but in favour of a supposition of state of truth and likelihood, the King hath a right to call upon that court, in the face of Europe, to produce a proof of an insurrection as odious as bold, and to develop those public operations, or secret intrigues, that can authorise the suspicions of France, that Great Britain, after a long and painful dispute, offered peace to her subject, with no other design than to undertake a fresh war against a respectable power, with which she had preserved all the appearances of friendship.

After having faithfully exposed the frivolous motives and pretended wrongs of France, we can reflect, with a certainty, justified

justified by reason and by fact, on the first proposition, so simple and so important. That a peace subsisted between the two nations, and that France was bound by every obligation of friendship and treaty with the King, who had never failed in his legitimate engagement.

The first article of the treaty signed at Paris, the 10th of February 1763, between his Britannic, most Christian, Catholic, and most faithful Majesties, confirms in the most precise and solemn manner, the obligations which natural justice imposes on all nations which are in mutual friendship; but these obligations are specified and stipulated in that treaty by expressions as lively as they are just. After having comprised in a general form, all the States and subjects of the high contracting powers, they declared their resolution "not only never to permit any hostilities by land or sea, but even to procure reciprocally, on every occasion, all that can contribute to their mutual glory, interest, and advantages, without giving any succour or protection, directly or indirectly, to those who would do any prejudice to one or other of the high contracting parties." Such was the sacred engagement which France contracted with Great Britain; and it cannot be disguised, that such a promise ought to bind with greater strength and energy against the domestic rebels, than the foreign enemies of the two crowns. The revolt of the Americans put the fidelity of the Court of Versailles to a proof, and notwithstanding the frequent examples that Europe hath already seen of its little regard to the faith of treaties, its conduct in these circumstances astonished and enraged every nation which was not blindly devoted to the interests, and even to the caprices of France. If France had intended to fulfil her duty, it was impossible for her to have mistaken it; the spirit as well as the letter of treaty of Paris, imposed on her an obligation to bar their ports against the American vessels; to forbid her subjects to have any commerce with that rebellious people; and not to afford either succour or protection to the domestic enemies of a crown with which she had sworn a sincere and inviolable friendship. But experience had too well enlightened the King in regard to the political system of his antient adversaries, to suffer him to hope that they would conform exactly to those just and reasonable principles, which would have assured a general tranquillity.

As soon as the revolted colonies had completed their criminal enterprize by an open declaration of their pretended independence, they thought to form secret connections with the powers who were the least favourable to the interests of their mother country; and to draw from Europe those military aids,

without which it would have been impossible for them to have supported the war they had undertaken. Their agents endeavoured to penetrate into, and settle the different states of Europe, but it was only in France they found an asylum, hopes, and assistance. It is beneath the King's dignity to inquire after the *æra*, or the nature of the correspondence that they had the address to contract with the ministers of the Court of Versailles, and of which the public effects were soon visible in the general liberty, or rather unbounded licence of an illegitimate commerce. It is well known that the vigilance of the laws cannot always prevent artful illicit traders, who appear under a thousand different forms, and whose avidity for gain makes them brave every danger, and elude every precaution: but the conduct of the French merchants, who furnished America not only with useful and necessary merchandize, but even with saltpetre, gunpowder, ammunition, arms, and artillery, loudly declared that they were assured not only of impunity, but even of the protection and favour of the ministers of the Court of Versailles.

An enterprize so vain and so difficult, as that of hiding from the eyes of Great Britain, and of all Europe, the proceedings of a commercial company, associated for furnishing the Americans with whatever could nourish and maintain the fire of a revolt, was not attempted. The informed public named the chief of the enterprize, whose house was established at Paris; his correspondents at Dunkirk, Nantz, and Bourdeaux, were equally known. The immense magazines which they formed, and which they replenished every day, were laden in ships that they built or bought, and they scarcely dissembled their objects, or the place of their destination. These vessels commonly took false clearances for the French islands in America, but the commodities which composed their cargo were sufficient, before the time of their sailing, to discover the fraud and the artifice. These suspicions were quickly confirmed by the course they held; and at the end of a few weeks, it was not surprising to hear they have fallen into the hands of the King's officers cruising in the American seas, who took them even within sight of the coasts of the revolted colonies. This vigilance was but too well justified by the conduct of those who had the luck or cunning to escape it; since they approached America only to deliver the rebels the arms and ammunition which they had taken on board for their service. The only marks of these facts, which could be considered only as manifest breaches of the faith of treaties, multiplied continually, and the diligence of the King's ambassador to communicate his complaints and proofs to the Court of Versailles, did not leave him

him the shameful and humiliating resource of appearing ignorant of what was carried on, and daily repeated in the very heart of the country. He pointed out the names, number, and quality of the ships, that the commercial agents of America had fitted out in the ports of France, to carry to the rebels, arms, warlike stores, and even French officers, who had engaged in the service of the revolted colonies. The dates, places and persons were always specified, with a precision that afforded the ministers of his most Christian Majesty the greatest facility of being assured of these reports, and of stopping in time the progress of these illicit armaments. Amongst a crowd of examples which accuse the Court of Versailles of want of attention to fulfil the conditions of peace, or rather its constant attention to nourish fear and discord, it is impossible to enumerate them all; it is very difficult to select the most striking objects. Nine large ships, fitted out and freighted by the Sieur de Beaumarchais, and his partners, in the month of January, 1777, are not confounded with the *Amphitrite*, who carried about the same time a great quantity of ammunition, and thirty French officers, who passed with impunity into the service of the rebels. Every month, almost every day, furnished new subjects of complaint; and a short memorial that Viscount Stormont, the King's ambassador, communicated to the Count de Vergennes, in the month of November, in the same year, will give a just, but very imperfect idea of the wrongs which Britain had so often sustained.—“There is a sixty-gun ship at Rochfort, and an East India ship pierced for sixty guns, at L'Orient. These two ships are destined for the service of the rebels. They are laden with different merchandize, and freighted by Messrs. Chaumont, Holkin, and Schatier.—The ship *L'Hourux*, sailed from Marseilles the 26th of September, under another name: she goes straight to New Hampshire, though it is pretended she is bound to the French islands. They have been permitted to take on board three thousand muskets, and 25,000 pounds of sulphur, a merchandize as necessary to the Americans as useful to the island. This ship is commanded by M. La di, a French officer of distinction, formerly Lieutenant to M. de Lamoignonville.—*L'Hippopotame*, belonging to the Sieur Beaumarchais, will have on board four thousand muskets, and many warlike stores for the use of the rebels. There are about fifty French ships laden with ammunition for the use of the rebels, preparing to sail to North America. They will go from Nantz, L'Orient, St. Malo, Havre, Bourdeaux, Bayonne, and other different ports. These are the names of some of the persons principally interested; M. Chaumont, M. Menton, and his partners, &c. &c.

In this kingdom, where the will of the prince meets with no obstacle, succours so considerable, so public, so long supported ; in nine, so necessary to maintain the war in America, shew clearly enough the most secret intentions of the most Christian King's ministers. But they still carried further their forgetfulness or contempt of the most solemn engagements, and it was not without their permission that an underhand and dangerous war issued from the ports of France, under the deceitful mask of peace, and the pretended flag of the American colonies. The favourable reception that their agents found with the ministers of the Court of Versailles, quickly encouraged them to form and execute the audacious project of establishing a place of arms in the country, which had served them for an asylum. They had brought with them, or knew how to fabricate letters of marque, in the name of the American Congress, who had the impudence to usurp all the rights of sovereignty. The partnership, whose interested views easily embarked in all their designs, fitted out ships that they had either built or purchased. They armed them to cruise in the European seas, nay, even on the coasts of Great Britain. To save appearances, the captains of these corsairs hoisted the pretended American flag, but their crews were always composed of a great number of Frenchmen, who entered, with impunity, under the very eyes of their governors and the officers of the maritime provinces. A numerous swarm of these corsairs, animated by a spirit of rapine, sailed from the ports of France, and after cruising in the British seas, re-entered, or took shelter in the same ports. Thither they brought their prizes, and under a rude, weak artifice, which they sometimes vouchsafed to employ, the prizes were sold publicly and commodiously enough, in the sight of the royal officers, always disposed to protect the commerce of those traders, who violated the laws to conform to the French ministry. The corsairs enriched themselves with the spoils of the king's subjects ; and after having profited of full liberty to repair their losses, provide for their wants, and procure all warlike stores, gunpowder, cannon, and rigging, which might serve for new enterprises, they departed freely from the same ports to make new cruizes. The history of the Reprisal privateer may be cited from a crowd of examples, to set the unjust, but scarcely artificial conduct of the Court of Versailles in a clear light. This ship, which had brought Mr. Franklin, agent of the revolted colonies to Europe, was received, with two prizes she had taken in her passage. She remained in the port of Nantz, as long as she thought convenient ; put twice to sea to plunder the king's subjects, and came quietly into L'Orient with the new prizes she had made.

Notwithstanding the strongest representation of the King's ambassador ; notwithstanding the most solemn assurances of the French ministers, the captain of that corsair was permitted to stay at L'Orient as long as it was necessary to refit his ship, to provide sixty barrels of gunpowder, and to receive as many French seamen as chose to engage with him. Furnished with these reinforcements, the *Reprisal* sailed a third time from the ports of their new allies, and presently formed a little squadron of pirates, by the concerted junction of the *Lexicon* and *Dolphin*, two privateers ; the first of which had already carried more than one prize into the river of Bourdeaux ; and the other, fitted out at Nantz, and manned entirely by Frenchmen, had nothing American but the commander. These three ships, which so publicly enjoyed the protection of the Court of Versailles, in a short time afterwards took fifteen British ships, the greater part of which were brought into the ports of France, and secretly sold.—Such facts, which it would be easy to multiply, stand instead of reasonings and reproaches. The faith of treaties cannot avoid being called upon on this occasion ; and it is not necessary to shew that an allied, or even a neutral power, can even permit war, without violating peace. The principle of the law of nations will, doubtless, refuse to the ambassador of the most respectable power, that privilege of arming privateers, which the Court of Versailles granted underhand, in the very bosom of France, to the agents of rebels. In the French islands, the public tranquillity was violated in a manner yet more audacious, and notwithstanding the change of the governor, the ports of Martinico served always as a shelter to corsairs who cruized under American colours, but manned by Frenchmen. Mr. Langham, agent for the rebels, who enjoyed the favour and confidence of two successive governors of Martinico, directed the arming of those privateers, and the public sale of their prizes. Two merchant ships, the *Lancashire Hero*, and the *Irish Gambier*, which were taken by the *Revenge*, assures, that out of her crew, consisting of 125 men, there were but two Americans ; and that the owner, who at the same time was proprietor of eleven other privateers, acknowledged himself to be an inhabitant of Martinico, where he was looked upon as the favourite, and the secret agent of the governor himself.

In the midst of all these acts of hostility, (which it is impossible to call by any other name) the Court of Versailles continued always to speak the language of peace and amity, and its ministers exhausted all the sources of artifice and dissimulation, to lull the just complaints of Great Britain, to deceive her just suspicions, and to stop the effects of her just resentment. From
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the first æra of the American troubles, to the moment of a declaration of war by the Marquis de Noailles, the ministers of the most Christian King never ceased to renew the strongest and most expressive protestations of their pacific dispositions; and however the common conduct of the Court of Versailles was adapted to inspire a just doubt, yet his Majesty's just heart furnished him with powerful motives to believe, that France had at length adopted a system of moderation and peace, which would perpetuate the solid and reciprocal happiness of the two nations. The ministers of the Court of Versailles endeavoured to excuse the arrival and residence of the rebels agent by the strongest assurances, that he found only a simple asylum in France, without either distinction or encouragement.

The freedom of commerce, and the thirst of gain, serve sometimes as pretents to cover the illegitimate designs on the subjects of France; and at a time when they vainly alledged the importance of the laws to prevent abuses, which neighbouring states know so well how to suppress, they condemned, with every appearance of sincerity, the transportation of arms and ammunition, which she permitted with impunity, for the service of the rebels. To the first representation of the King's ambassador upon the subject of the privateers, which were fitted out in the ports of France under American colours, the ministers of his most Christian Majesty replied, with expressions of surprise and indignation, and by a positive declaration, that attempts so contrary to the faith of treaties, and the public tranquillity, should never be suffered. The train of events, of which a small number hath been shewn, soon manifested the inconstancy, or rather the falsehood of the Court of Versailles; and the King's ambassador was ordered to represent to the French ministers, the serious, but inevitable consequences of their policy. He fulfilled his commission with all the consideration due to a respectable power, the preservation of whose friendship was desired, but with a friendship worthy of a sovereign, and a nation little accustomed to do, or to suffer injustice. The Court of Versailles was called upon to explain its conduct and its intentions, without delay or evasion; and the King proposed to it the alternative of peace or war. France chose peace, in order to wound her enemy more surely and secretly, without having any thing to dread from her justice. She severely condemned those succours and those armaments, that the principles of public equity would not permit her to justify. She declared to the King's ambassador, that she was resolved to banish the American corsairs immediately from all the ports of France, never to return again; and that she would take, in future, the most rigorous precautions to prevent the sale of prizes taken from

from the subjects of Great Britain. The orders given to that effect astonished the partizans of the rebels, and seemed to check the progress of the evil ; but subjects of complaint sprung up again daily ; and the manner in which these orders were first eluded, then violated, and at length entirely forgotten, by the merchants, privateers, nay, even the royal officers, were not excusable by the protestations of friendship with which the Court of Versailles accompanied those infractions of peace until the very moment that the treaty of alliance, which it had signed with the agents of the revolted American colonies, was announced by the French ambassador in London.

If a foreign enemy, acknowledged by all the powers of Europe had conquered the King's American dominions, and if France had confirmed by a solemn treaty, an act of violence, that had plundered in the midst of a profound peace, a respectable neighbour, of whom she stiled herself the friend and ally, all Europe would stand up against the injustice of a conduct which shamefully violated all that is most sacred among men. The first discovery, the uninterrupted possession of two hundred years, and the consent of all nations, were sufficient to ascertain the rights of Great Britain over the lands of North America, and its sovereignty over the people that had settled there with the permission, and under the government of the King's predecessors. If even this people had dared to shake off the yoke of authority, or rather off the laws ; if they had usurped the provinces and prerogatives of their sovereign ; and if they had sought the alliance of strangers to support their pretended independence ; those strangers could not accept their alliance, ratify their usurpations, and acknowledge their independence, without supposing that revolt hath more extensive rights than those of war ; and without granting to rebellious subjects a lawful title to conquest, which they could not have made but in contempt of both law and justice. The secret enemies of peace, of Great Britain, and perhaps of France herself, had nevertheless the criminal dexterity to persuade his most Christian Majesty, that he could, without violating the faith of treaties, publicly declare, that he received the revolted subjects of a king, his neighbour and ally, into the number of his allies. The professions of friendship which accompanied that declaration, which the Marquis de Noailles was ordered to make to the Court of London, only serve to aggravate the injury but by the insult ; and it was reserved for France to boast of pacific dispositions in the very instant that her ambition instigated her to execute and avow an act of perfidy, unexampled in the history of nations. Yet, such as the Court of Versailles dares allow itself to use. " Yet it would be

wrong to believe that the acknowledgment that the King has made of the independence of the thirteen United States of North America, is what has enraged the King of England : that prince is, without doubt, not ignorant of all the examples of the like kind that the British annals, even of his own reign, do furnish." But these pretended examples do not exist. The King never acknowledged the independence of a people, who had shaken off the yoke of their lawful prince ; it is doubtless very afflicting, that the ministers of his most Christian Majesty have cheated the piety of their sovereign, to cover, with so respectable a name, assertions without any foundation or likelihood, which are contradicted by the memory of all Europe.

At the commencement of the disputes which arose between Great Britain and her colonies, the Court of Versailles declared, that it did not pretend to be a judge of the quarrel, and its ignorance of the principles of the British constitution, as well as the privileges and obligations of the colonies, ought to have engaged it to persist always in such a wise and modest declaration, that would have spared it the shame of transcribing the manifestos of the American congress, and of pronouncing now, " That the proceedings of the Court of London had compelled its antient colonies to have recourse to arms for the maintenance of their rights, their privileges, and their liberty." These vain pretensions have been already refuted in the most convincing manner, and the rights of Great Britain over that revolted people, her benefactions, and her long patience, have been already proved by reason and by facts. It is sufficient here to remark that France cannot take any advantage of the injustice with right, and in fact is the object of dispute. And the King's dignity will not permit him to accept those proposals, which, from the very beginning of a negotiation, grants all that can satisfy the ambition of the rebellious Americans, whilst they exact from his Majesty, without any stipulation in his favour, that he should desist for a long or indefinite term, from his most lawful pretensions. It is true, the Court of Versailles vouchsafed to consent, that the Court of London might treat with the Congress, either directly, or by the intervention of the King of Spain. His Majesty certainly will not so much demean himself as to complain of that insolence, which seems to grant him, as a favour, the permission of treating directly with his rebellious subjects. But the Americans themselves are not blinded by passion and prejudice, they will see clearly in the conduct of France, that their new allies will soon become their tyrants, and that that pretended independence, purchased at the price of so much misery and blood, will be soon subjected to the despotic will of a foreign court.

If France could verify that eagerness which she attributes to the Court of London, to seek the mediation of Spain, a like eagerness would serve to prove the King's just confidence in the goodness of his cause, and his esteem for a generous nation which hath always despised fraud and perfidy. But the Court of London was obliged to own, that the mediation was offered to it by the ministers of the Catholic King, and it claims no other merit than that of having shown, on all occasions, a lively and sincere inclination to deliver its subjects, nay even its enemies, from the scourge of war. The conduct of the Court of Madrid, during that negociation, soon shewed the King that a mediator, who forgets his own dearest interests, to give himself up to the ambition, or resentment of a foreign power, must be incapable of proposing a safe or honourable accommodation. Experience confirmed these suspicions; the unjust and inadmissible scheme just mentioned, was the sole fruit of this mediation. In the same instant that the ministers of the Catholic King offered, with the most disinterested professions, his capital, his good offices, his guaranty, to facilitate the conclusion of the treaty, they suffered to appear from the bottom of obscurity new subjects for discussing, particularly relative to Spain, but upon which they always refused to explain themselves. His Majesty's refusal to accede to the *ultimatum* of the Court of Madrid was accompanied with all convenient precautions and respect: and, unless that court will arrogate to itself a right to dictate conditions of peace to an independent and respectable neighbour, there was nothing passed in that conjuncture, which ought to have altered the harmony of the two crowns. But the offensive measures of Spain, which she could never cloath with the fairest appearances of equity, will soon show that she had already taken her resolutions; had been intigated by the French ministry, who had only retarded the declaration of the Court of Madrid, from the hope of giving a mortal blow to the honour and interest of Great Britain, under the mask of friendship.

Such are the unjust and ambitious enemies, who have despised the faith of treaties to violate the public tranquillity, and against whom the King now defends the rights of his crown and people. The event is yet in the hands of the Almighty; but his Majesty, who relies upon the Divine protection, with a firm but humble assurance, is persuaded that the wises of Europe will support the justice of his cause, and applaud the success of his arms, which have no other object than to establish the repose of nations on a solid and unshaken basis.

But France herself appears to feel the weakness, the danger, and the indecency of these pretensions; when in the declaration of the Marquis de Noailles, as well as in her last manifesto,

fests, she quits her hold on the right of independence; she is content to maintain, that the revolted colonies enjoy, *in fact*, that independence they have bestowed on themselves; that even England herself, in some sort acknowledges it, in suffering acts of sovereignty to subsist; and that therefore, France, without any violation of peace, might conclude a treaty of friendship and commerce with the United States of North America.—Let us see in what manner Great Britain had acknowledged that independence, equally imaginary in right, as in fact. Two years had not yet elapsed from the day in which the rebels declared their criminal resolution of shaking off the yoke of their mother country; and that time had been occupied by the events of a bloody and obstinate war. Success had hung in suspense, but the King's army, which possessed the most important maritime towns, continue always to menace the interior provinces. The English flag reigned over all the American seas, and the re-establishment of a lawful dependence was fixed as the indispensable condition of the peace which Great Britain offered to her revolted subjects, whose rights, privileges, nay even whose prejudices, she respected. The Court of Versailles, which announced with so much openness and simplicity the treaty signed with the pretended States of America, which it found in an independent situation, had alone contributed, by its clandestine succours, to foment the fire of revolt; and it was the dread of peace that engaged France to employ the rumour of that alliance, as the most effectual means to inflame the minds of the people who began already to open their eyes upon the unfortunate consequences of the revolt, the tyranny of their new leaders, and the paternal disposition of their lawful sovereign.

Under such circumstances it is impossible, without insulting in too gross a manner both truth and reason, to deny that the declaration of the Marquis of Noailles, of the 13th of March, 1778, ought to be received as a true declaration of war on the part of the most Christian King; and the assurances "that he had taken eventual measures, in concert with the United States of America, to maintain a freedom of commerce," which had so often excited the just complaints of Great Britain, authorised the King from that moment to rank France in the number of his enemies. The Court of Versailles could not avoid acknowledging that the King of England, after having "recalled his ambassador, denounced to his Parliament the measures taken by his Majesty, as an act of hostility, as a formal and premeditated aggression." Such was, indeed, the declaration which both honour and justice demanded from the King, and which he communicated, without delay, to the ministers of

of the different courts of Europe, to justify beforehand the effects of a lawful resentment. From them it is useless to seek for orders that were sent to the East Indies, to remark the precise day when the fleets of England or France quitted their respective ports, or to scrutinize into the circumstances of the action with the *Belle Poule*, and the taking two other frigates, which were actually carried off in sight of the very coast of France. Hence the reproach made to the King of having so long suspended a formal declaration of war, vanishes of itself. These declarations are only the measures that nations have reciprocally agreed on, to avoid treachery and surprise, but the ceremonies which announce the terrible exchange of peace for war, the heralds declinations and manifestos are not always necessary, are not always alike. The declaration of the Marquis de Noailles was a signal of the public infraction of the peace. The King directly proclaimed to all nations that he accepted the war which France offered, the last proceedings of his Majesty were rather the spring of his prudence, than his justice, and Europe may now judge if the Court of London wanted means to "justify a declaration of war, and if she did not dare to accuse France, publicly, of being the aggressor."

Message from his Majesty to the House of Commons, April 8, 1778.

GEORGE III.

HIS Majesty being restrained by the laws now in being, from making provision for his younger children out of the hereditary revenues of the crown, and being desirous that competent provisions may be made for the honourable support and maintenance of his dearly-beloved sons, Prince Frederick, Bishop of Osnaburgh, Prince William Henry, Prince Edward, Prince Ernest Augustus, Prince Augustus Frederick, Prince Adolphus Frederick; and of his dearly beloved daughters, Princess Charlotte Augusta Matilda, Princess Augusta Sophia, Princess Elizabeth, Princess Mary, and Princess Sophia, and for the honourable maintenance and support of Prince William Frederick and Princess Sophia Matilda, the son and daughter of his dearly beloved brother, William Henry, Duke of Gloucester: his Majesty hopes that he shall be enabled by act of Parliament to grant an annuity of 60,000*l.* to the six princes, and an annuity of 30,000*l.* to the five princesses; and to grant an annuity of 8,000*l.* to Prince William Frederick, and an annuity of 4,000*l.* to Princess Sophia Matilda, the son and daughter of the Duke of Gloucester: the annuities to his Majesty's sons and daughters to take effect after his Majesty's demise;

demise ; and the annuities to the son and daughter of the Duke of Gloucester, to take effect after the death of the Duke of Gloucester ; and his Majesty recommends the consideration thereof to this House.

G. R.

Resolved by the House of Commons, May 11, 1778,

THAT an humble address be presented to his Majesty, that his Majesty will be graciously pleased to give directions that the remains of William Pitt, Earl of Chatham, be interred at the public charge ; and that a monument be erected in the collegiate church of St. Peter's, Westminster, to the memory of that excellent statesman, with an inscription expressive of the public sense of so great and irreparable a loss ; and to assure his Majesty that this House will make good the expences attending the same.

May 13, 1778.

Lord North reported to the House, that his Majesty had commanded him to acquaint this House that he will give directions as desired by the said address.

Resolved by the House of Commons, May 13, 1778,

THAT an humble address be presented to his Majesty, to return his Majesty the thanks of this House, for his most gracious answer to their address of Monday last, and to beseech his Majesty, that he will be graciously pleased to bestow some signal and lasting mark of his royal favour on the family of the late William Pitt, Earl of Chatham, and to assure his Majesty that whatever he, from his princely goodness, shall think proper to be granted, this House, animated by the gratitude which they in common with the rest of his Majesty's subjects feel towards the memory of that upright and disinterested minister, and ambitious of giving a testimony of their approbation to that public virtue and spirited conduct which directed the councils of this country in the last glorious and successful war, will with the greatest cheerfulness make good to his Majesty.

May 14, 1778.

Lord North reported to the House, that his Majesty had been graciously pleased to say, that he will take the same into his consideration, and that he will do therein what shall appear to his Majesty to be most proper, agreeable to the desire of his faithful Commons.

Messrs

Message from his Majesty to the House of Commons, May 20, 1778.

GEORGE REX.

HIS Majesty having taken into his consideration the address of this House, that he will be graciously pleased to bestow some signal and lasting mark of his royal favour on the family of the late William Pitt, Earl of Chatham; and being desirous to comply as speedily as possible with the request of his faithful Commons, has given directions for granting to the present Earl of Chatham, and to the heirs of the body of the late William Pitt, to whom the earldom of Chatham shall descend, an annuity of 4,000l. per annum, out of the civil-list revenue; but his Majesty not having it in his power to extend the effect of the said grant beyond the term of his own life, recommends it to the House to consider of a proper method of extending, securing, and annexing the same to the earldom of Chatham, in such manner as shall be thought most effectual for the benefit of the family of the said William Pitt, Earl of Chatham.

G. R.

Resolved by the House of Commons, May 26, 1778,

THAT an humble address be presented to his Majesty, to represent to his Majesty, that this House having received information that upon the death of the late Earl of Chatham, there were several mortgages and other debts, incurred by him and then remaining a charge upon his estates, to a considerable amount; and being desirous to shew every testimony of their esteem and gratitude to the memory of the said William Pitt, Earl of Chatham, most humbly beseech his Majesty to advance the sum of 20,000l. towards paying off and discharging the said mortgages, and other debts; and to assure his Majesty that this House will make good the same in the next session of Parliament.

*Substance of the Speech of Mr. Speaker to his Majesty,
June 3, 1778.*

AT this time of public alarm, his faithful Commons were happy to find that his Majesty had called out the constitutional force of the kingdom for its defence; that they hoped his Majesty would in consequence be enabled to employ his other forces on essential services without the realm; that as they had liberally granted supplies to the fullest wishes of his servants, they trusted his Majesty would make such use of the money as

was most likely to preserve the honour and dignity of his crown, and promote the welfare and interest of his dominions ; finally, that they heartily wished for a speedy return of the Americans to their allegiance, and did not doubt but in due time his Majesty would be able to chastise and repress the insolence of his natural enemies.

His Majesty's most gracious Speech, June 3, 1778.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

AFTER so long and laborious an application to the public business, I think it proper at this season of the year to give you some recess. I come at the same time to return you my particular thanks for the zeal you have shewn in supporting the honour of my crown, and for your attention to the real interests of all my subjects, in the wise, just, and humane laws which have been the result of your deliberations, and which I hope will be attended with the most salutary effects in every part of the British empire.

My desire to preserve the tranquillity of Europe has been uniform and sincere : I reflect with great satisfaction that I have made the faith of treaties and the law of nations the rule of my conduct, and that it has been my constant care to give no just cause of offence to any foreign power ; let that power by whom this tranquillity shall be disturbed, answer to their subjects and to the world for all the fatal consequences of war.

The vigour and firmness of my Parliament have enabled me to be prepared for such events and emergencies as may happen ; and I trust that the experienced valour and discipline of my fleets and armies, and the loyal and united aidour of the nation, armed and animated in the defence of every thing that is dear to them, will be able, under the protection of the divine Providence, to defeat all the enterprizes which the enemies of my crown may presume to undertake, and convince them how dangerous it is to provoke the spirit and strength of Great Britain.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I thank you for the cheerfulness with which you have granted the large and ample supplies for the service of the current year, and for your care in raising them in a manner the most effectual and the least burthenome ; and my warmest acknowledgments are due to you for the provision you have enabled me to make for the more honourable support of my family.

My Lords and Gentlemen, .

Your presence in your respective counties may at this time be of great public advantage. It is unnecessary for me to recommend to you to do your duty in your several stations: on my part, I have no other wish or object but to deserve the confidence of my Parliament, and the affections of my people.

Then the Lord Chancellor, by his Majesty's command, said,
My Lords and Gentlemen,

IT is his Majesty's royal will and pleasure, that this Parliament be prorogued to Tuesday, the 14th day of July next, to be then here holden, and this Parliament is accordingly prorogued to Tuesday, the 14th day of July next.

His Majesty's most gracious Speech, Nov. 26, 1778.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

IHAVE called you together in a conjuncture which demands your most serious attention.

In the time of profound peace, without pretence of provocation or colour of complaint, the Court of France hath not forbore to disturb the public tranquillity, in violation of the faith of treaties, and the general rights of sovereigns, at first by the clandestine supply of arms and other aid to my revolted subjects in North America, afterwards by avowing openly their support, and entering into formal engagements with the leaders of the rebellion, and at length by committing open hostilities and depredations on my faithful subjects, and by an actual invasion of my dominions in America and the West Indies.

It is, I trust, unnecessary for me to assure you, that the same care and concern for the happiness of my people, which induced me to endeavour to prevent the calamities of war, will make me desirous to see a restoration of the blessings of peace, whenever it can be effected with perfect honour, and with security to the rights of this country.

In the mean time, I have not neglected to take the proper and necessary measures for disappointing the malignant designs of our enemies, and also for making general reprisals; and although my efforts have not been attended with all the success which the justice of our cause and the vigour of our exertions seemed to promise, yet the extensive commerce of my subjects has been protected in most of its branches, and large reprisals have been made upon the injurious aggressors, by the vigilance

of my fleets, and by the active and enterprising spirit of my people.

The great armaments of other powers, however friendly and sincere their professions, however just and honourable their purposes, must necessarily engage our attention.

It would have afforded me very great satisfaction to have informed you, that the conciliatory measures planned by the wisdom and temper of Parliament, had taken the desired effect, and brought the troubles in North America to a happy conclusion.

In this situation of affairs, the national honour and security call so loudly upon us for the most active exertions, that I cannot doubt of your heartiest concurrence and support. From the vigour of your councils, and the conduct and intrepidity of my officers and forces by sea and land, I hope, under the blessing of God, to derive the means of vindicating and maintaining the honour of my crown and the interests of my people against all our enemies.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I will order the proper estimates for the service of the ensuing year to be laid before you: and when you consider the importance of the objects for which we are contending, you will, I doubt not, grant me such supplies as you shall judge necessary for the public service, and adequate to the present emergency.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I have, according to the powers vested in me for that purpose, called forth the militia to assist in the interior defence of this country; and I have, with the greatest and truest satisfaction, been myself a witness of that public spirit, that steady ardour, and that love of their country, which animate and unite all ranks of my faithful subjects, and which cannot fail of making us safe at home and respected abroad.

Address of the House of Lords to his Majesty, Nov. 26, 1778.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Lords spiritual and temporal, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to return your Majesty our humble thanks for your most gracious speech from the throne.

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We have the strongest sense of the importance of those objects which render the present conjuncture worthy of the most serious attention.

The disturbance of the public tranquillity by the Court of France, without pretence of provocation, or offer of complaint, the clandestine assistance, the avowed support, the formal engagements which at different periods that court has not thought it inconsistent with its honour to afford to your Majesty's revolted subjects in North America, and to conclude with the leaders of rebellion, excite in our breasts a just abhorrence of the violation of every public principle which such a conduct manifests, and a determination to concur in every measure which may enable your Majesty to resent with effect the hostilities committed on your faithful subjects, and the actual invasion of your Majesty's dominions in America and the West Indies.

We beg leave to express our grateful sense of the tender concern for the happiness of your people, which has uniformly induced your Majesty to endeavour to prevent the calamities of war, and will make your Majesty desirous to see the return of peace, whenever it can be effected with perfect honour and security to the rights of this country.

At the same time we return your Majesty our dutiful thanks for your great care in taking the proper and necessary measures for disappointing the malignant designs of our enemies, and also for making general reprisals, and for the protection which has been derived from the vigilance of your Majesty's fleets to our extensive commerce, in most of its branches, while that of the enemy has materially suffered by the active and enterprising spirit of our fellow subjects: and we hope, although your Majesty's efforts have not hitherto been attended with all the success which the justice of our cause and the vigour of our exertions seemed to promise, that consequences more adequate to both may result from the animated execution of firm and active councils, which the time requires, and with which the spirited perseverance of the British nation has so often surmounted the greatest difficulties.

It is with concern we learn that the conciliatory measures of Parliament have not yet had the good effect with your Majesty's revolted subjects, which was due to the wisdom and temper with which they were planned.

In this situation of affairs, fully sensible that the national honour and security loudly calls for the most active exertions, we will strenuously concur in supporting your Majesty, that, under the blessing of God, means may be derived from the conduct and intrepidity of your Majesty's officers and forces,

by sea and land, and the yet undaunted spirit of the nation, to vindicate and maintain the honour of the crown, and the interests of the people of Great Britain.

We return your Majesty our cordial acknowledgments for having called forth the militia, to assist in the interior defence of this country; and it is with joy and exultation we hear the gracious testimony your Majesty is pleased to bear to the public spirit, the steady ardour, and love of their country which animate that national force, and unite all ranks of your Majesty's faithful subjects, in giving such proofs to the world of a loyalty and zeal which must render us safe at home and respected abroad.

His Majesty's most gracious Answer.

My Lords,

I THANK you for this loyal and dutiful address. The zeal you shew for my honour and support, and the fineness and vigour you manifest in the present conjuncture, cannot fail to produce the best effects; it must add confidence to my people, and encourage animated efforts to withstand, oppose, and subdue every hostile attack upon the honour and interests of my kingdoms.

Address of the House of Commons to his Majesty, Nov. 26, 1778.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons of Great Britain, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to return your Majesty the thanks of this House for your most gracious speech from the throne.

We acknowledge with the utmost gratitude your Majesty's paternal regard for the happiness of your people, in your earnest and uniform endeavours to preserve the public tranquillity, and the good faith and uprightness of your Majesty's conduct to all foreign powers: and we assure your Majesty, that we have seen with concern and indignation, that tranquillity disturbed by the Court of France, without the least pretence of provocation, or colour of complaint; and we have, with the warmest emotions of resentment, marked the progress of their malignant designs against this country, first, by a clandestine aid and supply of arms to your Majesty's revolted subjects in North America; afterwards, in violation of the faith of treaties, and contrary to the rights and common interest of every sovereign state in Europe possessed of colonies and dependencies, by entering into and avowing formal engagements with the leaders
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of the rebellion ; and at length, by committing open hostilities and depredations, and by actually invading part of your Majesty's dominions in America and the West Indies.

We cannot but feel concern and regret that the measures taken by your Majesty for disappointing these hostile and malignant designs, have not been attended with all the success which the justice of the cause, and the vigour of the exertions seemed to promise ; yet we have at the same time seen with great satisfaction the extensive commerce of your Majesty's subjects protected in most of its branches, and large reprisals made on the injurious aggressors, by the vigilance of your Majesty's fleets, and the active spirit of the nation.

It would have given your faithful Commons the truest happiness to have received the communication from your Majesty that the just and humane purposes of your Majesty and your Parliament, for quieting the minds of your revolted subjects, had taken the desired effect, and had brought the troubles in North America to a happy conclusion.

Your faithful Commons do most heartily concur with your Majesty in the just approbation you have been pleased to express of the public spirit which has so conspicuously animated all ranks of your Majesty's faithful subjects to stand forth, at this time of danger, in the service of the militia, who, by their discipline and steady perseverance in their duty, have enabled your Majesty to avail yourself of that constitutional force for the defence of this country.

Your Majesty may rely on the hearty and zealous concurrence and assistance of your faithful Commons, in enabling your Majesty to make the most active and vigorous exertions by sea and land, for vindicating and establishing the national honour and security ; and we beg leave to declare our steadfast resolution, and renew our solemn assurances to your Majesty, that this House, convinced of the importance of the objects for which we are contending, and impelled by every motive of duty and interest that can animate the hearts of Britons, will effectually assist your Majesty in the prosecution of the present just and necessary war ; and that we will, to the utmost of our power, support your Majesty against all your enemies. *

His Majesty's most gracious Answer.

Gentlemen,

I RETURN you my thanks for this very loyal and affectionate address. I am convinced that nothing can so effectually promote the public service, as your resolution and firmness at this

this time: I should ill deserve the support of my faithful Commons, and the zeal of my people, for the honour of my crown, if I did not make their safety and their happiness the constant objects of my care and concern.

Message from his Majesty to both Houses of Parliament, June. 17,
1779.

GEORGE REX.

THE ambassador of the King of Spain having delivered a paper to Lord Viscount Weymouth, and signified that he has received orders from his court, immediately to withdraw from this country, his Majesty has judged it necessary to direct a copy of that paper to be laid before this House, as a matter of the highest importance to his crown and people; and his Majesty acquaints them, at the same time, that he has found himself obliged, in consequence of this hostile declaration, to recall his ambassador from Madrid.

His Majesty declares, in the most solemn manner, that he desires to preserve and to cultivate peace and friendship with the Court of Spain has been uniform and sincere, and that his conduct towards that power has been guided by no other motives or principles than those of good faith, honour, and justice; and that his Majesty sees with the greater surprise the pretences on which this declaration is grounded, as some of the grievances enumerated in that paper have never come to the knowledge of his Majesty; either by representation on the part of the Catholic King, or by intelligence from any other quarter; and in all those cases where applications have been received, the matter of complaint has been treated with the utmost attention, and put into a course of inquiry and redress.

His Majesty has the firmest confidence, that this House will, with that zeal and public spirit which he has so often experienced, support his Majesty in his resolution to exert all the power and all the resources of the nation to resist and repel any hostile attempts of the Court of Spain: and that, by the blessing of God on the rectitude of his intentions and the equity of his cause, his Majesty will be able to withstand and defeat the unjust and dangerous enterprises of his enemies against the honour of his crown, and the commerce, the rights, and the common interests of all his subjects.

G. R.

Manifesto delivered to Lord Viscount Weymouth by the Spanish Ambassador, dated June 16, 1779.

ALL the world has been witness to the noble impartiality of the King, in the midst of the disputes of the Court of London with its American Colonies and with France. Besides which, his Majesty having learned that his powerful mediation was desired, generously made an offer of it, which was accepted by the belligerent powers, and for this motive only a ship of war was sent on the part of his Britannic Majesty to one of the ports of Spain. The King has taken the most energetic steps, and such as ought to have produced the most happy effect, to bring those powers to an accommodation equally honourable to both parties, proposing for this end wise expedients for smoothing difficulties and preventing the calamities of war. But although his Majesty's propositions, and particularly those of his *ultimatum*, have been conformable to those which at other times the Court of London itself had appeared to judge proper for an accommodation, and which were also quite as moderate, they have been rejected in a manner that fully proves the little desire which the British Cabinet has to restore peace to Europe, and to preserve the King's friendship. In effect, the conduct of that cabinet, with regard to his Majesty, during the whole course of the negotiation, has had for its object to prolong it for more than eight months, either by vain pretences, or by answers which could not be more inconclusive, whilst in this interval the insults on the Spanish flag, and the violation of the King's territories were carried on to an incredible excess; prizes have been made, ships have been searched and plundered, and a great number of them have been fired upon, which have been obliged to defend themselves, the registers have been opened and torn in pieces, and even the packets of the Court found on board the King's packet-boat.

The dominions of the crown in America have been threatened, and they have gone to the dreadful extremity of raising the Indian nations, called the Chateas, Cherokee's, and Chicachas, against the innocent inhabitants of Louisiana, who would have been the victims of the rage of these barbarians, if the Chateas themselves had not repented, and revealed all the seduction the English had planned. The sovereignty of his Majesty in the province of Darien, and on the coast of St. Blas, has been usurped, the governor of Jamaica having granted to a rebel Indian the commission of captain-general of those provinces.

In

In short, the territory of the Bay of Honduras has been recently violated by exercising acts of hostility, and other excesses against the Spaniards, who have been imprisoned, and whose houses have been invaded; besides which, the Court of London has hitherto neglected to accomplish what the 16th article of the last treaty of Paris stipulated relative to that coast.

Grievances so numerous, so weighty and recent, have been at different times the object of complaints made in the King's name, and stated in memorials which were delivered either to the British ministers at London, or transmitted to them through the channel of the English ambassador at Madrid; but although the answers which were received have been friendly, his Majesty has hitherto obtained no other satisfaction than to see the insults repeated, which lately have amounted to the number of one hundred.

The King, proceeding with that sincerity and candour which characterise him, has formally declared to the Court of London, from the commencement of its disputes with France, that the conduct of England should be the rule of that which Spain would hold.

His Majesty likewise declared to that Court, that at the time their differences with that of Paris might be accommodated, it would be absolutely necessary to regulate those which had arisen, or might still arise with Spain, and on the plan of mediation which was sent to the undersigned ambassador the 28th of last September, and which was delivered by him to the British ministry in the beginning of October, (a plan with which Lord Grantham was apprised, and of which he received a copy) his Majesty declared in positive terms to the belligerent powers, that in consideration of the insults which his subjects and dominions had suffered, and likewise of the attempts levelled against his rights, he should be under the necessity of taking his part, in case the negotiation, instead of being continued with sincerity, should be broken off, or should produce no effect.

The causes of complaint given by the Court of London not having ceased, and that Court shewing no dispositions to give reparation for them, the King has resolved, and orders his ambassador to declare, that the honour of his crown, the protection which he owes to his subjects, and his own personal dignity, do not permit him to suffer their insults to continue, and to neglect any longer the reparation of those already received, and that in this view, notwithstanding the pacific dispositions of his Majesty, and even the particular inclination he had always had and expressed for cultivating the friendship
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of his Britannic Majesty, he finds himself under the disagreeable necessity of making use of all the means which the Almighty has entrusted him with, to obtain that justice which he has solicited by so many ways, without being able to acquire it: in confiding on the justice of his cause, his Majesty hopes that the consequences of this resolution will not be imputed to him before God or man, and that other nations will form a suitable idea of this resolution, by comparing it to the conduct which they themselves have experienced on the part of the British ministry.

London, June 16, 1779.

(Signed) LE MARQUIS D'ALMODOVAR.

Address by the House of Lords to his Majesty, June 17, 1779.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Lords spiritual and temporal, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to return your Majesty our humble thanks for your most gracious message, and communication of the paper delivered to Lord Viscount Weymouth by the ambassador of the King of Spain, which we cannot but consider as a matter of the highest importance to your Majesty's crown and people; and for acquainting us, that in consequence of this hostile declaration, your Majesty had found yourself obliged to give orders to your ambassador to withdraw from that Court.

We beg leave to assure your Majesty, that among the many proofs we have received of your Majesty's constant care and concern for the safety and happiness of your people, your Majesty's declaration of your sincere desire to preserve and to cultivate peace and friendly intercourse with the Court of Spain, cannot fail to inspire us with the highest sentiments of gratitude and attachment; and that, animated by your Majesty's example, we will, with unshaken fidelity and resolution, and with our lives and fortunes, stand by and support your Majesty against all the hostile designs and attempts of your enemies against the honour of your crown, and the rights and common interests of all your Majesty's subjects.

Address

Address by the House of Commons to his Majesty, June 17, 1779.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons of Great Britain in Parliament assembled, return our humble thanks to your Majesty, for the communication of the paper delivered to Lord Viscount Weymouth by the ambassador of the King of the Spain, which we cannot but consider as a matter of the highest importance to your Majesty's crown and people, and for acquainting us, that in consequence of this hostile declaration, your Majesty has found yourself obliged to give orders to your ambassadors to withdraw from that Court.

Among the many proofs we have received of your Majesty's constant care and concern for the safety and happiness of your people, your Majesty's declaration of your sincere desire to preserve and to cultivate peace and friendly intercourse with the Court of Spain, cannot fail to inspire us with the highest sentiments of gratitude and attachment. And we do leave to assure your Majesty, that, animated by your Majesty's example, we will, with unshaken fidelity and resolution, and with our lives and fortunes, stand by and support your Majesty in resisting and repelling all the hostile designs and attempts of your enemies against the honour of your crown, and the rights and common interests of all your subjects.

His Majesty's Answer to both Houses.

I RETURN you thanks for this loyal and affectionate address. I have the strongest reliance on your support, and I trust that the spirit and vigour of my people, under the Divine protection, will enable me to repel every hostile attempt against my dominions, the honour of my crown, and the rights of my subjects.

His Majesty's most gracious Speech, July 3, 1779.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

THE many great and essential services you have rendered to me and to your country, during the course of your long attendance in Parliament, demand my most cordial thanks.

I have seen with entire approbation the zeal you have manifested for the support and prosecution of the just and necessary

fair war in which I am engaged ; nor am I less sensible of your attention to the present state of my kingdom of Ireland : my paternal affection for all my people makes me sincerely anxious for the happiness and prosperity of every part of my dominions.

Hitherto the events of war have afforded the Court of France no reason to triumph on the consequences of their injustice and breach of public faith ; and I trust that by a spirited and prosperous exertion of the force you have put into my hands, that ambitious power may be brought to wish that they had not, without provocation or cause of complaint, insulted the honour and invaded the rights of my crown.

I have already acquainted you with the hostile step which has been lately taken by the Court of Spain. Whatever course may be attempted to be put upon that unjust proceeding, I am conscious that I have nothing to reproach myself with : it has been followed by the clearest demonstrations of the loyalty and affection of my Parliament to my person and government, for which I repeat to you my warmest thanks ; and I consider it as a happy omen of the success of my arms, that the increase of difficulties serves only to augment the courage and constancy of the nation, and to animate and unite my people in the defence of their country, and of every thing that is dear to them.

The advanced season of the year requires that I should afford you some respite from public business, and I do it with the less reluctance, as, by the powers vested in me by law, I can have the aid of your advice and assistance within fourteen days, should any emergency make it necessary for me to consult you before the usual time.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

The various and extensive operations of the war have unavoidably occasioned uncommon expence, and brought additional burdens on my faithful and beloved people, which I most sincerely regret ; I cannot sufficiently thank you for the confidence you have reposed in me, and for the cheerfulness and public spirit with which the large supplies for the current year have been granted.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

It is impossible to speak of the continuance of the rebellion in North America without the deepest concern ; but we have given such unquestionable proofs of our sincere disposition to put an end to those troubles, that I must still hope, that the malignant designs of the enemies of Great Britain cannot long prevail

prevail against the evident interests of those unhappy provinces, and that they will not blindly persist in preferring an unnatural and dangerous connection with a foreign power, to peace and re-union with their mother country.

Then the Lord Chancellor, by his Majesty's command, said,

My Lords and Gentlemen,

IT is his Majesty's royal will and pleasure, that this Parliament be prorogued to Thursday, the fifth day of August next, to be then here holden: and this Parliament is accordingly prorogued to Thursday, the fifth day of August next.

His Majesty's most gracious Speech, Nov. 25, 1779.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I MEET you in Parliament at a time when we are called upon by every principle of duty, and every consideration of interest, to exert our united efforts in the support and defence of our country, attacked by an unjust and unprovoked war, and contending with one of the most dangerous confederacies that ever was formed against the crown and people of Great Britain.

The designs and attempts of our enemies to invade this kingdom have, by the blessing of Providence, been hitherto frustrated and disappointed. They still menace us with great armaments and preparations; but we are, I trust, on our part, well prepared to meet every attack, and repel every insult. I know the character of my brave people: the menaces of their enemies, and the approach of danger, have no other effects upon their minds, but to animate their courage and call forth their national spirit, which has so often checked and defeated the projects of ambition and injustice, and enabled the British fleets and armies to protect their own country, to vindicate their own rights, and at the same time to uphold and preserve the liberties of Europe from the restless and encroaching power of the House of Bourbon.

In the midst of my care and solicitude for the safety and welfare of this country, I have not been inattentive to the state of my loyal and faithful kingdom of Ireland. I have, in consequence of your addresses presented to me in the last session, ordered such papers to be collected and laid before you, as may assist your deliberations on this important business; and I recommend it to you to consider what further benefits and advantages

advantages may be extended to that kingdom, by such regulations, and such methods, as may most effectually promote the common strength, wealth, and interests of all my dominions.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

The proper estimates shall, in time, be laid before you. I see with extreme concern, that the necessary establishments of my naval and military forces, and the various services and operations of the ensuing year, must inevitably be attended with great and heavy expences; but I rely on your wisdom and public spirit for such supplies, as the circumstances and exigencies of our affairs shall be found to require.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I have great satisfaction in renewing the assurances of my entire approbation of the good conduct and discipline of the militia, and of their steady perseverance in their duty: and I return my cordial thanks to all ranks of my loyal subjects, who have stood forth in this arduous conjuncture, and by their zeal, their influence, and their personal service, have given confidence, as well as strength, to the national defence. Trusting in the divine Providence, and in the justice of my cause, I am firmly resolved to prosecute the war with vigour, and to make every exertion in order to compel our enemies to listen to equitable terms of peace and accommodation.

Address, by the House of Lords to his Majesty, Nov. 26, 1772.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Lords spiritual and temporal, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to return your Majesty our humble thanks for your most gracious speech from the throne.

The just sense we have of the blessings under your Majesty's government, and the indignation we feel at the unprovoked and unwarrantable aggression of our enemies, who seek to deprive us of those blessings, and threaten your Majesty's kingdoms with invasion, will continue to animate our resolutions, and redouble our efforts in the national defence. We trust, that those efforts, seconded by the zeal of a faithful and loyal people, will, under the Providence of God, be fully sufficient to repel every attack, to frustrate the hopes, and defeat the designs of any confederacy that may be formed against your Majesty's crown and dominions.

In such a crisis, the approach of danger can serve only to call forth that national spirit, which always rises with the occasion that demands it, but never displayed itself in a more important conjuncture, though it has so often protected the liberties of these kingdoms, and of Europe in general, and has enabled the British fleets and armies to withstand, and defeat the designs of that restless and aspiring ambition, which has so frequently disturbed the peace and invaded the rights of mankind.

We are deeply sensible of your Majesty's paternal goodness, which does not confine itself to one part of your dominions, but is anxious for the prosperity of the whole, and in the midst of your care and solicitude for the safety and welfare of this country, has led your attention to the state of your loyal and faithful kingdom of Ireland. Guided by the same sentiments which prompted the humble address we presented to your Majesty the last session, we will continue our attention to those important objects your Majesty's wisdom recommends, and after deliberately weighing the whole, will consider what further benefits may be extended to that kingdom, by such regulations and such methods as may most effectually promote the common strength, wealth, and interests of all your Majesty's dominions.

Your Majesty's approbation of the good conduct and discipline of the militia, and of their steady perseverance in their duty, and the satisfaction your Majesty expresses in the conduct of your loyal subjects of all ranks, who have stood forth in this arduous conjuncture, must redouble that zeal, extend that influence, and increase those personal exertions which have given confidence as well as strength to the national defence.

We see, with great satisfaction, that your Majesty, trusting in the divine Providence, and in the justice of your cause, is firmly resolved to prosecute the war with vigour, and to make every exertion in order to compel our enemies to listen to equitable terms of peace and accommodation. Such spirited and vigorous measures must be conducive to so desirable an end; and we humbly beg leave to assure your Majesty, that they will meet with our most hearty concurrence and sinnest support.

His Majesty's most gracious Answer.

My Lords,

I THANK you for this dutiful and loyal address. The spirit and resolution with which you stand forth in the national defence, and the support you promise to the vigorous measures I
and

am determined to pursue, must tend to restore, upon fair and equitable terms, that general tranquillity which I have ever endeavoured to maintain; and your attention to those important objects I have recommended to you, will, I doubt not, increase the general prosperity of all my subjects, which is my constant and invariable aim.

Address of the House of Commons to his Majesty, Nov. 26, 1779.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons of Great Britain, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to return your Majesty the thanks of this House, for your most gracious speech from the throne.

We are truly sensible that, in the present arduous situation of affairs, we are called upon by every principle and every sentiment of duty to your Majesty, and to those we represent, to exert and to unite our utmost efforts in the support and defence of our country against a most unjust war, and one of the most dangerous confederacies that was ever formed against the crown and people of Great Britain.

We see and revere the goodness of divine Providence, in frustrating and disappointing the designs of our enemies to invade this kingdom: and whenever they attempt to carry their menaces into execution, we trust that their attacks will be repelled, and their enterprise defeated, by the blessing of the same Providence on the valour and intrepidity of your Majesty's fleets and armies; and that your Majesty's gracious and endearing declaration of your confidence in the character and courage of your people will be justified, by the most convincing proofs, that they are still animated by the same ardour, and the same spirit, that have in former times carried this nation through so many difficulties and dangers, and have so often enabled their ancestors to protect their country and all its dominions, and to save not only their own rights, but the liberties of other free states, from the restless ambition and encroaching power of the House of Bourbon.

We acknowledge, with thankfulness, your Majesty's goodness and attention to the address of this House, respecting your loyal and faithful kingdom of Ireland, in being pleased to order such papers to be communicated to this House, as may assist our deliberations on this important business: and we beg leave to assure your Majesty, that we shall not fail to take into our consideration what further benefits and advantages may be extended to that kingdom by such regulations, and such methods,

as may most effectually promote the common strength, wealth, and interells of all our dominions.

Permit us, Sir, to return our humble thanks to your Majesty, for the gracious manner in which your Majesty renews and confirms your entire approbation of the good conduct and steady discipline of the national militia; and to assure your Majesty, that we concur most sincerely with your Majesty in acknowledging and applauding the meritorious zeal and services of those loyal subjects who stood forth in the hour of danger, and who have added confidence as well as strength to the national defence.

Your Majesty's faithful Commons receive with gratitude, and take a sincere part in your Majesty's paternal expressions of concern that the various and extensive services and operations of the ensuing year must unavoidably be attended with great and heavy expences; yet, when it is considered how much the commerce, the prosperity, and the safety of Great Britain depend on the issue of this contest, we doubt not that such powerful considerations and motives will induce all your Majesty's subjects to sustain, with cheerfulness and magnanimity, whatever burthens shall be found necessary for raising such supplies as may enable your Majesty to prosecute the war with vigour and effect, and to make every exertion in order to compel your enemies to listen to equitable terms of peace and accommodation.

His Majesty's most gracious Answer.

Gentlemen,

I RECEIVE with the greatest and most cordial satisfaction, this very loyal and affectionate address; and I return you my particular thanks for it.

The spirit and firmness you shew, the zeal you so seasonably express in this arduous state of public affairs, and the assurances of your attention to the important objects I have recommended to your deliberation, cannot fail of having the best effects both at home and abroad.

Resolved by the House of Commons, June 6, 1780,

THAT an humble address be presented to his Majesty that he will be graciously pleased to give directions to the Attorney General, forthwith to prosecute all such persons as shall be found to be the instigators or abettors of, or active in promoting

ing the riots and tumults that were on Friday last, in Old Palace Yard, and the avenues to this House, and that were concerned in any of the outrages committed upon the houses and chapels of any of the ministers from foreign states, or in any outrages against the property and houses of any of his Majesty's subjects.

Resolved by the House of Commons, June 6, 1780,

THAT an humble address be presented to his Majesty, that he will be graciously pleased to give immediate directions that an inquiry be made into the amount of the damages occasioned by the outrages which have been committed upon the houses and chapels of any of the ministers from foreign states, and humbly to desire his Majesty that he will be graciously pleased to order such satisfaction and recompence to be made for the same, as his Majesty in his wisdom shall think proper, and to assure his Majesty that this House will make good the expence that shall be incurred on that account.

His Majesty's most gracious Speech, June 19, 1780.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

THE outrages committed by bands of desperate and abandoned men, in various parts of this metropolis, broke forth with such violence . . . acts of felony and treason, had so far overborne all civil authority, and threatened to directly the immediate subversion of all legal power, the destruction of all property, and the confusion of every order in the state, that I found myself obliged by every tie of duty and affection to my people, to suppress, in every part, those rebellious insurrections, and to provide for the public safety, by the most effectual and immediate application of the force entrusted to me by Parliament.

I have directed copies of the proclamations issued upon that occasion to be laid before you.

Proper orders have been given for bringing the authors and abettors of these insurrections, and the perpetrators of such criminal acts, to speedy trial, and to such condign punishment as the laws of their country prescribe, and as the vindication of public justice demands.

Though I trust it is not necessary, yet I think it right at this time, to renew to you my solemn assurances, that I have no other object but to make the laws of the realm, and the prin-

ciples of our excellent constitution in church and state, the rule and measure of my conduct; and I shall ever consider it as the first duty of my station, and the chief glory of my reign, to maintain and preserve the established religion of my kingdoms, and, as far as in me lies, to secure and to perpetuate the rights and liberties of my people.

Address by the House of Lords to his Majesty, June 19, 1780.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Lords spiritual and temporal, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to return your Majesty our humble thanks for your most gracious speech from the throne.

We feel the utmost abhorrence and detestation of the outrages committed in various parts of this metropolis by bands of desperate and abandoned men, outrages that broke forth with such violence into acts of felony and treason, and which threatening so directly the immediate subversion of all legal authority, the destruction of all property, and the confusion of every order in the state, called loudly for the speediest and most effectual application of the force entrusted to your Majesty by law.

We beg leave to testify our warmest gratitude to your Majesty for your paternal care and concern for the protection of your subjects, so manifest in the measures your wisdom directed in this urgent necessity, to suppress in every part these rebellious insurrections, and to provide for the general safety, by the restoration of public peace.

We thank your Majesty for the communication you have been pleased to make to this House of the proclamations issued in this alarming conjuncture.

We learn with satisfaction that orders have been given for bringing the offenders to speedy trial, and to such condign punishment as the law prescribes, and the vindication of public justice demands.

Although the uniform tenor of your Majesty's conduct rendered unnecessary the renewal of your gracious assurances to your Parliament, yet the manner in which they are given raises in us the warmest emotions of gratitude, affection, and duty. Such a declaration of the just and wise principles that are the rule and measure of your Majesty's government, must endear your Majesty more and more to all your subjects, and meet with the fullest return of attachment, confidence, and zeal.

His

His Majesty's most gracious Answer,

My Lords,

I THANK you heartily for this address, so full of duty to me, and of zeal for your country. Your abhorrence of the rebellious insurrections, and your unanimous approbation of the measures taken to suppress them, must have the most salutary effects. Nothing can give me greater satisfaction than the confidence you repose in me. It shall be justified by the whole tenor of my reign.

Address by the House of Commons to his Majesty, June, 19, 1780.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons of Great Britain, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to return your Majesty the humble thanks of this House, for your most gracious speech from the throne; and for the communication which your Majesty has been pleased to make to this House, of the proclamations issued during the late most dangerous and alarming disturbances.

We think it our indispensable duty to express, in the strongest terms, our abhorrence of the proceedings of those tumultuous assemblies, and of the criminal acts of outrage and violence committed by those desperate bands of men, and our highest indignation against the authors, promoters, and perpetrators of them, and to acknowledge, with the warmest emotions of gratitude, duty, and affection, your Majesty's parental care and concern for the protection of your subjects, in the measures which your Majesty, as the father of your people, and the guardian of public safety, took in the hour of extreme and imminent necessity, for the immediate and effectual suppression of those rebellious insurrections.

We learn with satisfaction, that proper orders have been given for bringing the offenders to speedy trial, and to such punishment, as, upon conviction of their crimes, the laws prescribe, and the vindication of public justice certainly demands.

Although the constant tenor of your Majesty's just and constitutional government made a renewal of your Majesty's royal assurances to your Parliament unnecessary, yet we cannot but receive with great thankfulness so signal a mark of your Majesty's gracious attention; and we beg leave, on our part, to assure your Majesty, that this condescending and endearing de-

claration cannot fail of securing to your Majesty, in the hearts of your people, the most affectionate returns of confidence, attachment, and support.

His Majesty's most gracious Answer.

Gentlemen,

I RETURN you my cordial and particular thanks for this loyal, affectionate, and unanimous address.

Union at this time must have the best and most important consequences: nothing can more powerfully assist me in preserving the public safety, and securing reverence for the laws, and obedience to legal government. Be assured that it is my constant and ardent desire to promote the happiness of all my subjects, and to deserve the confidence and support of a free people.

Message from his Majesty to the House of Commons, delivered by Lord North, June 19, 1780.

THE Lord North informed the House, that he was commanded by his Majesty to acquaint this House, that his Majesty has caused the Right Honourable Lord George Gordon, a member of this House, to be apprehended and committed for high treason.

Resolved by the House of Commons, June 19, 1780,

THAT an humble address be presented to his Majesty, to return his Majesty the thanks of this House, for communicating to this House the reason for which his Majesty has caused the Right Honourable Lord George Gordon, a member of this House, to be apprehended and committed.

Resolved by the House of Commons, July 6, 1780,

THAT an humble address be presented to his Majesty, that he will be graciously pleased to order an account to be taken of the losses and damages which any of his subjects have sustained by reason of the late rebellious insurrections, and to direct that the same be laid before this House at the opening of the next session of Parliament.

His

His Majesty's most gracious Speech, July 8, 1780.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

IT gives me great satisfaction to find myself able to determine this long session of Parliament, that you may be at liberty to return to your several counties, and attend to your private affairs, after so laborious a discharge of your duty in the public service; and I take this occasion to express my sincere acknowledgments for the fresh proofs you have given me of your affectionate zeal for the support of my government, and of your just estimation of the real and permanent interests of your country.

Your magnanimity and perseverance in the prosecution of this just and necessary war have enabled me to make such exertions, as will, I trust, by the assistance of divine Providence, disappoint the violent and unjust designs of my enemies, and bring them to listen to equitable and honourable terms of peace.

These exertions have already been attended with success by sea and land; and the late important and prosperous turn of affairs in North America affords the fairest prospect of the returning loyalty and affection of my subjects in the colonies, and of their happy re-union with their parent country.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I feel myself under particular obligations to thank you for the large and ample supplies you have so cheerfully granted, and for the confidence you repose in me. No attention shall be wanting, on my part, to render them effectual, and to see them faithfully applied.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

Let me earnestly recommend to you to assist me, by your influence and authority in your several counties, as you have by your unanimous support in Parliament, in guarding the peace of the kingdom from future disturbances, and watching over the preservation of the public safety. Make my people sensible of the happiness they enjoy, and the distinguished advantages they derive, from our excellent constitution in church and state. Warn them of the hazard of innovation—point out to them the fatal consequences of such commotions as have lately been excited; and let it be your care to impress on their minds this important truth—that rebellious insurrections to resist or to reform the laws, must end either in the destruction of the persons who make the attempt, or in the subversion of our free and happy constitution.

Then

Then the Lord Chancellor, by his Majesty's command, said,

My Lords and Gentlemen,

IT is his Majesty's royal will and pleasure, that this Parliament be prorogued to Thursday, the twenty-fourth day of August next, to be then here holden: and this Parliament is accordingly prorogued to Thursday, the twenty-fourth day of August next.

*Speech of the Lord Chancellor to the House of Commons,
Oct. 31, 1780.*

My Lords and Gentlemen,

HIS Majesty has been pleased to command me to acquaint you, that he will defer declaring the cause of calling this Parliament, till there shall be a Speaker of the House of Commons: and, therefore, it is his Majesty's pleasure that you, Gentlemen of the House of Commons, do immediately repair to the place where the Commons usually sit, and there choose a fit person to be your Speaker; and that you present such person who shall be so chosen, to his Majesty here, for his royal approbation, to-morrow at two of the clock.

Speech of Mr. Speaker to his Majesty, Nov. 1, 1780.

May it please your Majesty,

YOUR faithful Commons in Parliament assembled, having, pursuant to your Majesty's directions, and their ancient right, proceeded to the election of a Speaker, I am sorry to inform your Majesty, that their choice has fallen upon me. Conscious of my own inability to discharge so weighty and important a trust, I most humbly entreat your Majesty to give them an opportunity of reconsidering their choice, and send them back to a new election.

The Lord Chancellor, after a short conference with his Majesty, replied,

Mr. Cornewall,

However diffident you may be of your own qualifications, his Majesty is so well convinced of your talents, diligence, and sufficiency for the high situation to which you have been elected, that his Majesty cannot decline giving the fullest approbation

probation to the choice his Commons have made. I am now commanded, therefore, by his Majesty, to declare that it is with great pleasure he allows and confirms you as their Speaker.

To this speech, Mr. Cornewall made the following answer :

As your Majesty, by approving the choice of your Commons, has confirmed me their Speaker, I humbly entreat your Majesty to accept my acknowledgments for your favourable opinion of my abilities, and that your Majesty will vouchsafe to pardon my failings, so that no unguarded word or act of mine may ever be imputed to your faithful Commons: and that your Commons of Great Britain may be the better enabled to discharge their duty to your Majesty and to their country, I do, in their name, and on their behalf, by humble petition to your Majesty, lay claim to all their ancient rights and privileges; particularly that their persons, and those of their servants, may be free from arrests, and all other molestation; that they may enjoy freedom of speech in their debates; that they may have free access to your royal person; and that all their proceedings may receive from your Majesty the most favourable interpretation.

To this the Lord Chancellor, by his Majesty's order, replied,

Sir,

The King has commanded me to say, that he has the highest confidence in the duty, loyalty, and affection of his Commons his person and government, as well as in their wisdom and prudence in all proceedings; his Majesty therefore does most readily allow them all their privileges, in as full and ample a manner as they have at any time been allowed to any former Parliament, by his Majesty or any of his royal predecessors—With respect to that part of your petition which concerns yourself, though his Majesty is persuaded that no man can stand in less need of it, yet, that you may enter with the fullest confidence on the office to which you have been chosen, his Majesty has directed me to assure you that he shall ever put the most favourable construction on your words and actions.

His

His Majesty's most gracious Speech, Nov. 1, 1780.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

IT is with more than ordinary satisfaction that I meet you in Parliament, at a time when the late elections may afford me an opportunity of receiving the most certain information of the disposition and the wishes of my people, to which I am always inclined to pay the utmost attention and regard.

The present arduous situation of public affairs is well known; the whole force and faculties of the monarchies of France and Spain are drawn forth, and exerted to the utmost, to support the rebellion of my colonies in North America, and, without the least provocation or cause of complaint to attack my dominions; and the undisguised object of this confederacy manifestly is to gratify boundless ambition, by destroying the commerce, and giving a fatal blow to the power of Great Britain.

By the force which the late Parliament put into my hands, and by the blessing of divine Providence on the bravery of my fleets and armies, I have been able to withstand the formidable attempts of my enemies, and to frustrate the great expectations they had formed; and the signal successes which have attended the progress of my arms in the provinces of Georgia and Carolina, gained with so much honour to the conduct and courage of my officers, and to the valour and intrepidity of my troops, which have equalled their highest character in any age, will, I trust, have important consequences, in bringing the war to a happy conclusion. It is my most earnest desire to see this great end accomplished; but I am confident you will agree with me in opinion, that we can only secure safe and honourable terms of peace by such powerful and respectable preparations, as shall convince our enemies that we will not submit to receive the law from any powers whatsoever, and that we are united in a firm resolution to decline no difficulty, or hazard, in the defence of our country, and for the preservation of our essential interests.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I have ordered the estimates for the ensuing year to be laid before you. I see and feel with great anxiety and concern, that the various services of the war must, unavoidably, be attended with great and heavy expences; but I desire you to grant me such supplies only, as your own security, and lasting welfare, and the exigency of affairs shall be found to require.

My

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I repose an entire confidence in the zeal and affections of this Parliament, conscious that during the whole course of my reign, it has been the constant object of my care, and the wish of my heart, to promote the true interests and happiness of all my subjects, and to preserve inviolate our excellent constitution in church and state.

Address of the House of Lords to his Majesty, Nov. 1, 1780.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to return your Majesty our humble thanks for your most gracious speech from the throne.

Permit us to offer to your Majesty our most dutiful congratulations on the birth of another prince, and the happy recovery of the Queen, and to assure your Majesty, that every addition to your Majesty's domestic happiness must always afford the highest satisfaction to your faithful subjects.

In the present arduous situation of public affairs, we think it an indispensable part of our duty to make those spirited and vigorous exertions which such a conjuncture demands; and we beg leave to assure your Majesty, that we are united in a firm resolution to decline no difficulty or hazard in the defence of our country, and for the preservation of our essential interests.

It is with just and heartfelt indignation that we see the monarchies of France and Spain leagued in confederacy to support the rebellion in your Majesty's colonies in North America, and employing the whole force of those kingdoms in the prosecution of a war waged in violation of all public faith, and for the sole purpose of gratifying boundless ambition, by destroying the commerce, and giving a fatal blow to the power of Great Britain.

We have seen with great satisfaction that the force which, with just confidence, was entrusted to your Majesty by Parliament, has, by the blessing of divine Providence on the bravery of your fleets and armies, enabled your Majesty to withstand the formidable attempts of your enemies, and to frustrate the great expectations they had conceived; and we hope and trust, that the success of your Majesty's arms in Georgia and Carolina, gained with so much honour to the conduct and courage of your Majesty's officers, and to the valour and intrepidity of
your

your troops, will have the most important consequences, and that such signal events, followed by those vigorous measures which your Majesty recommends, and in which we are determined to concur, will disappoint all the views of our enemies, and restore the blessings of a safe and honourable peace.

We are satisfied that the only way to accomplish this great end, which your Majesty so earnestly desires, is to make such powerful and respectable preparations as shall convince our enemies, that we will not submit to receive the law from any powers whatever, but, with that spirit and resolution which become us, will maintain the essential rights, honour, and dignity, of Great Britain.

We have a deep and most grateful sense of the constant solicitude your Majesty shows to promote the true interests and happiness of all your subjects, and to preserve inviolate our excellent constitution in church and state. And we beg leave humbly to assure your Majesty, that it shall be our earnest endeavour to justify and deserve the confidence which your Majesty so graciously places in our affection, duty, and zeal.

His Majesty's most gracious Answer.

My Lords,

I THANK you heartily for this very loyal and dutiful address.

The joy you express in the increase of my family, and in the happy recovery of the Queen, is extremely agreeable to me.

Your wise and spirited resolutions to prosecute the war with vigour, and to maintain, at every hazard, the essential interests, dignity, and honour of Great Britain, give me the highest satisfaction, and must be productive of the most salutary effects, both at home and abroad.

Address of the House of Commons to his Majesty, Nov. 7, 1780.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons of Great Britain in Parliament assembled, return your Majesty the thanks of this House, for your most gracious speech from the throne.

We beg leave to congratulate your Majesty upon the safe delivery of the Queen, and the birth of another prince; and to assure

assure your Majesty that we take a sincere part in every event that contributes to your Majesty's domestic happiness.

We acknowledge, with the utmost gratitude, your Majesty's condescending goodness, in your desire to meet your Parliament at this time, and your gracious expression of attention and regard to the disposition and wishes of your people.

We are impressed with a due sense of the difficulties of the present arduous conjuncture, when the whole force of France and Spain is combined and exerted to support the rebellion in your Majesty's colonies, and to attack all the dominions of your crown; and when it is but too manifest to all the world that the real views of this most unjust confederacy are to give a fatal blow to the commerce and power of Great Britain, in resentment for the successful efforts which the nation has so often made to save the liberties of Europe from the ambition of the House of Bourbon.

We have observed, with great and just satisfaction, that your Majesty, by the support of your Parliament, and the spirit and bravery of your fleets and armies, has, under the Divine protection, been enabled to withstand the formidable attempts of your enemies; and we offer our most cordial congratulations to your Majesty, on the signal successes which have attended the progress of your Majesty's arms in the provinces of Georgia and Carolina, and in which the conduct and courage of your Majesty's officers, and the valour and intrepidity of your troops have been so eminently distinguished.

We consider your Majesty's earnest desire and solicitude to see the war brought to a happy conclusion as the strongest proof of your paternal regard for your people: but we entirely agree with your Majesty, that safe and honourable terms of peace can only be secured by such powerful preparations and vigorous exertions as shall convince our enemies that your Majesty and your Parliament are united in a firm and steadfast resolution to decline no difficulty or danger in the defence of their country, and for the maintenance of their essential interests.

We are thoroughly sensible that these ends cannot be effected without great and heavy expences; and we will grant your Majesty such supplies as the lasting security and welfare of your kingdoms and the exigency of affairs shall be found to require.

Your Majesty may rely, with entire confidence, on the most zealous and affectionate attachment of your faithful Commons to your person, family, and government; and we acknowledge, with the liveliest sentiments of reverence and gratitude, that the constant tenor of your Majesty's conduct shows that the sole objects of your royal care and concern are

to promote the happiness of your people, and to preserve inviolate our excellent constitution in church and state.

His Majesty's most gracious Answer.

Gentlemen,

I THANK you for this very dutiful address. I receive your congratulations on the increase of my family and on the happy recovery of the Queen, as a mark of your loyalty and affection.

I have a firm confidence that the support of my faithful Commons, and the spirit of my brave people, engaged in a just cause, and fighting for their country and their essential interests, will, in the end, enable me to surmount all difficulties, and to attain the object of all my measures and all my exertions, a safe and honourable peace.

The humble Address of the Archbishop, the Bishops and Clergy of the Province of Canterbury in Convocation assembled, presented to his Majesty, Nov. 17, 1780.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Archbishop, Bishops, and Clergy, of the province of Canterbury, in convocation assembled, humbly beg leave to approach your throne, and with the deepest sense of gratitude for the protection we continue to enjoy under your Majesty's reign, to offer our unfeigned congratulations on the further security of your Majesty's illustrious House, by the birth of another prince, and on the happy recovery of our gracious Queen, the patroness of religion and virtue.

We are, on this occasion, particularly obliged to acknowledge and admire a late instance of your Majesty's attention to the interests of Christianity, in your royal munificence to the pious designs of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in foreign Parts, erected by a charter from your glorious predecessor, King William, and now restored to its former activity, by the liberal contributions of your subjects, encouraged by your Majesty's example.

Amidst all the protection and favour we derive from the goodness of your Majesty's heart, we lament the necessity of confessing, that the licentiousness of the times continues to counteract your paternal care for the state of national religion;

bad men and bad books are the produce of all times, but we observe, with particular regret, that the wickedness of the age hath of late been directly pointed at the fences of piety and virtue, established by God himself, and apparently secured by law.

The open violation of the Lord's day, and the invitations of men to desert the religious duties of that day for amusements, frivolous at best, appears to call for the aid of the civil magistrate, to check the progress of an evil so dangerous both to church and state, by suppressing, on the Lord's day, places of resort for pleasure, where the interposition of the ministers of religion is impracticable. We humbly assure your Majesty, that so far as any exertion of our's can reach, we shall not fail to admonish and rebuke, both by word and example.

We have the comfortable hope, Sir, that it will appear to your Majesty, that Popery is less prevalent than it has been in this part of the world. We are too zealously attached to Protestantism not to oppose the errors of the church of Rome, as well in controversial attacks as in the more successful way of teaching the doctrines of our apostolical church; adhering, at the same time, invariably to the principles of the reformation, which direct us to oppose error of every kind, by argument and persuasion, and to disavow all violence in the cause of religion.

May Almighty God, who, for our sins, hath permitted your Majesty to be involved in a war, just, indeed, and necessary, but in its own nature productive of much calamity, bless your Majesty's efforts with decisive success.

It becomes us, as ministers of the gospel, to praise God for every victory which has a tendency to the blessings of peace; and whenever it shall please his infinite wisdom to restore them to this nation, we shall further beseech him to grant to your Majesty the full enjoyment of those blessings for many years, in the prosperity and unanimous loyalty of your subjects.

To which Address his Majesty was pleased to return the following most gracious Answer:

I THANK you for your congratulations on the increase of my family, and the happy recovery of the Queen.

I hear, with pleasure, the zeal you express for the interests of our holy religion; and I shall continue to make it my constant endeavour to support them upon the principles of the reformation, against the incroachments of licentiousness or superstition.

Trusting to the justice of my cause, I rely on the continuance of the blessings of Providence on my endeavours to restore to my people a safe and honourable peace.

Message from His Majesty to the Houses of Lords and Commons, February 25, 1781.

GEORGE KING.

HIS Majesty has not deemed it proper to acquaint the House of Lords, that, during the sittings of Parliament, he has been incessantly obliged to erect letters of marque and general reprisals to be issued against the States General of the United Provinces and their subjects.

The causes and motives of his Majesty's conduct on this occasion are set forth in his private declaration, which he has ordered to be read in the House.

His Majesty, with the most reluctant, has been induced to take this step, in the face of a nation, whose alliance with the Kingdom he has sworn to by the faith of ancient treaties, but which he has not been able to procure of good policy. He has used every means to induce the States General to return to a line of conduct consistent with those principles, to the tenor of their engagements, to their honour and natural justice, or both combined, and nothing but the necessity of preventing a worse, has prevented him.

His Majesty is sensible that the justice and necessity of his conduct will be acknowledged by the whole of the world. Relying on the assistance of divine Providence, and the support of his people, his Majesty has determined that, by a vigorous exertion of the power and resources of the nation, he shall be able to maintain the honour of his crown and the rights and interests of his people, against his enemies, and to bring them to listen to equitable terms of peace.

Answer.

GEORGE KING.

THROUGHOUT the whole course of our reign, our conduct towards the States General and the United Provinces has been that of a sincere friend and faithful ally. Had they adhered to those wise principles which used to govern the Republic, they must have shown themselves equally solicitous to maintain the friendship which has so long subsisted between the

two nations, and which is essential to the interest of both? but, from the prevalence of a faction devoted to France, and following the dictates of that court, a very different policy has prevailed. The return made to our friendship, for some time past, has been an open contempt of the most solemn engagements, and a repeated violation of public faith.

On the commencement of the defensive war in which we found ourselves engaged by the aggression of France, we shewed a tender regard for the interests of the States General, and a desire of securing to their subjects every advantage of trade, consistent with the great and just principle of our own defence: our ambassador was instructed to offer a friendly negotiation, to obviate every thing that might lead to disagreeable discussion, and to this offer solemnly made by him to the States General the 2d of November, 1778, no attention was paid.

After the number of our enemies increased by the aggression of Spain, equally unprovoked with that of France, we found it necessary to call upon the States General for the performance of their engagements. The fifth article of the perpetual defensive alliance between our Crown and the States General, concluded at Westminster the 3d day of March, 1678, besides the general engagement for succours, expressly stipulates, “That the party of the two alies that is not attacked shall be obliged to break with the aggressor in two months, after the party attacked shall require it:” yet, two years have passed without the least assistance given to us, without a single syllable in answer to our repeated demands.

So totally regardless have the States been of their treaties with us, that they readily promised our enemies to observe a neutrality, in direct contradiction to those engagements; and whilst they have withheld from us the succours they were bound to furnish, every secret assistance has been given the enemy; and inland duties have been taken off, for the sole purpose of facilitating the carriage of naval stores to France.

In direct and open violation of treaty they suffered an American pirate to remain several weeks in one of their ports; and even permitted a part of his crew to mount guard in a fort in the Texel.

In the East Indies the subjects of the States General, in concert with France, have endeavoured to raise up enemies against us.

In the West Indies, particularly at St. Eustasius, every protection and assistance has been given to our rebellious subjects. Their privateers are openly received in the Dutch harbours, allowed to refit there, supplied with arms and ammu-

nition, their crews recruited, their prizes brought in and sold; and all this in direct violation of as clear and solemn stipulations as can be made.

This conduct, so inconsistent with all good faith, so repugnant to the sense of the wisest part of the Dutch nation, is chiefly to be ascribed to the prevalence of the leading magistrates at Amsterdam, whose secret correspondence with our rebellious subjects was suspected long before it was made known by the fortunate discovery of a treaty; the first article of which is:

“ There shall be a firm, inviolable, and universal peace and
 “ sincere friendship between their High Mightinesses, the
 “ Estates of the Seven United Provinces of Holland, and the
 “ United States of North America, and the subjects and people
 “ of the said parties; and between the countries, islands, ci-
 “ ties, and towns, situated under the jurisdiction of the said
 “ United States of Holland, and the said United States of
 “ America, and the people and inhabitants thereof of every
 “ degree, without the exception of persons or places.”

This treaty was signed in September, 1778, by the express order of the pensionary of Amsterdam, and other principal magistrates of that city. They now not only avow the whole transaction, but glory in it, and expressly say, even to the States General, that what they did, “ was what their indis-
 “ pensable duty required.”

In the mean time, the States General declined to give any answer to the memorial presented by our ambassador; and this refusal was aggravated by their proceeding upon other business, nay, upon the consideration of this very subject to internal purposes; and while they found it impossible to approve the conduct of their subjects, they still industriously avoided to give us the satisfaction so manifestly due.

We had every right to expect, that such a discovery would have roused them to a just indignation at the insult offered to us, and to themselves; and that they would have been eager to give us full and ample satisfaction for the offence, and to inflict the severest punishments upon the offenders. The urgency of the business made an instant answer essential to the honour and safety of this country. The demand was accordingly pressed by our ambassador in repeated conferences with the ministers; and in a second memorial, it was pressed with all the earnestness which could proceed from our ancient friendship, and the sense of recent injuries; and the answer now given to a memorial on such a subject, delivered about five weeks ago, is, *That the States have taken it ad referendum.* Such an answer, upon such an occasion, could only be dictated
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by the fixed purpose of hostility, meditated and already resolved by the States, induced by the offensive councils of Amsterdam, thus to countenance the hostile aggression which the magistrates of that city have made in the name of the Republic.

There is an end of the faith of all treaties with them, if Amsterdam may usurp the sovereign power, may violate those treaties with impunity, by pledging the States to engagements directly contrary, and leaguings the Republic with the rebels of a sovereign to whom she is bound by the closest ties. An infraction of the law of nations, by the meanest member of any country, gives the injured state a right to demand satisfaction and punishment: how much more so, when the injury complained of is a flagrant violation of public faith, committed by leading and predominant members in the state: since, then, the satisfaction we have demanded is not given, we must, though most reluctantly, do ourselves that justice which we cannot otherwise obtain: we must consider the States General parties in the injury, which they will not repair, as it were in the aggression which they refuse to punish, and must act accordingly. We have, therefore, ordered our ambassador to withdraw from the Hague, and shall immediately pursue vigorous measures as the occasion fully justifies, and our dignity and the essential interests of our people require. From a regard to the Dutch nation at large, we wish it were possible to direct those measures wholly against Amsterdam, but this cannot be unless the States General should immediately declare, that Amsterdam shall, upon this occasion, receive no assistance from them; but be left to abide the consequences of its aggression.

Whilst Amsterdam is allowed to prevail in the general councils, and is backed by the strength of the State, it is impossible to resist the aggression of so considerable a part without contending with the whole. But we are too sensible of the common interests of both countries, not to remember, in the midst of such a contest, that the only point to be aimed at by us, is to raise a disposition in the councils of the Republic to return to our ancient union, by giving us that satisfaction for the past and security for the future, which we shall be as ready to receive as they can be to offer; and to the attainment of which we shall direct all our operations: we mean only to provide for our own security by defeating the dangerous designs that have been formed against us. We shall ever be disposed to return to friendship with the States General, when they sincerely revert to that system which the wisdom of their ancestors formed, and which has now been subverted by a powerful faction conspiring with France against the true in-

terests of the Republic, no less than against those of Great Britain.

G. R.

St. James's, Dec. 20, 1780.

Answer of the States General to the Manifesto of the King of Great Britain.

IF ever the annals of the world have furnished an instance of a free and independent state being attacked by an enemy, in the most unjustifiable manner, and without the least appearance of right or equity, by a neighbouring power allied for a long time, and bound by ties founded on the basis of common interest, it is without doubt the Republic of the United States of the Netherlands, which finds itself in that case with his Majesty the King of Great Britain and his ministers. From the beginning of the disputes which had arisen between that kingdom and its American colonies, their High Mightinesses, no wise obliged to interfere, had taken the firm and determined resolution to adopt and strictly to adhere to the most exact neutrality: and when the said disputes had kindled the flames of a war which hath embroiled more powers than one, and spread in several parts of the world, their High Mightinesses have constantly observed and maintained the same line of conduct, whilst, in the mean time, they have taken care to give on many occasions, and in some instances of a very essential nature, the most convincing proofs of their sincere inclination to conform to the wishes of his Majesty: so far as they could do it without going against the rules of impartiality, or bringing in question their rights of sovereignty.

It was with this view, and for this purpose, that their High Mightinesses, from the beginning, and at the requisition of his Britannic Majesty, caused most express inhibitions to be published against the exportation of all warlike stores to the colonies of his Britannic Majesty in America; and against all fraudulent trade with the said colonies: and, in order that the said prohibitions should be more effectually carried into execution, their High Mightinesses made no difficulty to take such farther step as greatly circumscribed their own navigation, and the trade of their subjects with the Dutch colonies in the West Indies.

It was to further the above purposes, that their High Mightinesses sent the most exact orders to all commanders and governors of their colonies and settlements, as well as to the commanders of their ships of war, carefully to abstain from
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doing, in regard to the American flag, any thing from which could be justly inferred or deduced an acknowledgment of the independency of the said colonies: and it is also, especially to the above intent, that their High Mightinesses having received a memorial presented to them by the English ambassador, full of the heaviest complaints against the governor of St. Eustatia, condescended to deliberate on the said memorial; though couched in terms little consonant with the regard which sovereign powers owe to each other: the consequence of the said deliberation was the immediate recall of the said governor, whom their High Mightinesses called to an account for his conduct, and who was not permitted to return to his residence till he had cleared himself of all the charges brought against him before a court of justice; a copy of whose proceedings was soon after transmitted to the minister of his Britannic Majesty.

By such measures as these their High Mightinesses, who always earnestly wished to avoid giving the smallest cause of discontent to his Britannic Majesty, have constantly endeavoured to promote and cultivate perfect harmony; but his Britannic Majesty's conduct towards the Republic has been diametrically opposite.

The differences between the Courts of London and Versailles had scarcely broken out, when they beheld the ports of England filled with Dutch vessels, which were unjustly seized and detained: these vessels navigated upon the faith of the treaties, and were not laden with any other merchandise than what the express tenor of the treaties had declared free and legal. They beheld those free cargoes forced to submit to an arbitrary and despotic authority. The cabinet at St. James's, knowing no other rule than an assumed right of temporary convenience, thought proper to appropriate those cargoes to the use of the crown by a forcible purchase, and to employ them in the service of the King's navy. The most earnest and serious representations on the part of their High Mightinesses against these proceedings were ineffectual, and it was in vain that they urged, in the strongest manner possible, the treaty subsisting between England and the Republic. By this treaty, the rights and liberties of the neutral flag are decisively and clearly stated. The subjects of Great Britain had fully enjoyed the advantages of this treaty, in the first and only case, wherein it pleased the Court of London to remain neuter, whilst the Republic was engaged in a war. Certainly then, in a reciprocal case, that court could not, without the greatest injustice, refuse the enjoyment of the same advantages to the Republic; and as little right as his Britannic Majesty had to

withhold the advantageous effects of this treaty from their Highnesses, he had as little foundation for attempting to make them quit the neutrality they had embraced, and to force them to plunge into a war, the cause of which related immediately to the rights and possessions of his Britannic Majesty lying beyond the limits of defensive treaties.—And notwithstanding this treaty, his Majesty, from the commencement of the difference with the crown of France, has made no scruple of infringing and violating it. The trespasses and fractions made on this treaty, on the part of Great Britain, and the arbitrary decisions of the courts of justice in that kingdom, directly contrary to the express sanction of the same treaty, multiplied daily. The merchant vessels became the innocent victims of the exactions and accumulated violences of the English men of war and privateers. They did not however rest there. The very flag of the States was not spared, but openly and outrageously insulted by a hostile attack upon the convoy, under the care of the Rear admiral Comte de Byland. The strongest representations from the States to his Britannic Majesty were disregarded, the ships taken from the convoy were declared good prizes, and this insult on the flag of the Republic was very soon followed by an open violation of their neutral territory, as well in Europe as America. They will content themselves, however, with reciting two examples.

At the island of St. Martin his Britannic Majesty attacked, and carried away by force, several vessels that lay at anchor under the cannon of the fort, where, according to the inviolable rights of mankind, the vessels ought to have found a secure asylum. The insults committed by an armed English vessel on the coast of the Republic, near Geederede, furnish a second example of these violations. These insults were carried so far, that many inhabitants of the island who dwelt on the shore, where they ought to have supposed themselves secure from any disturbance, were exposed, by the violence of the fire from the ship, to such imminent danger, that they were forced to retire to the interior part of the island. Yet, for these unheard of proceedings, the Republic, notwithstanding the strongest and best-founded representations, has not obtained the smallest satisfaction.

Affairs being thus situated, so that their Highnesses had no other alternative left them, but to see the navigation and commerce of their subjects, on which the ruin or prosperity of their Republic alone depends, totally annihilated, or else to adopt measures hostile to their old friend and ally; at this period the Empress of Russia, urged by a generous magnanimity of disposition, thought proper to interfere, and with

as much affection as humanity invited the Republic to take the justest measures, and such too as were entirely consistent with the treaty subsisting between the State and other powers, for the defending and maintaining, in conjunction with her Imperial Majesty, and the other northern powers, their privileges and immunities which the rights of nations and the most solemn treaties allowed to neutral flags.

This invitation could not but be infinitely agreeable to their High Mightinesses, since they considered it as a means of securing the undisturbed commerce of their subjects upon the most solid basis, and as holding out a method of protecting their independence against every infraction, at the same time that it proposed nothing at all derogatory to the alliance contracted between them and his Britannic Majesty, or the other belligerent powers. But this was a measure of which the Court of London endeavoured to deprive the Republic, by proceeding with precipitation to the most desperate extremities, by recalling their ambassador, by the publication of a manifesto, containing a list of fictitious grievances, and by granting letters of marque and pretended reprisal against the States, their subjects, and their property, by which violence, indeed, this Court did nothing more than clearly carry into proof and practice the designs which they have for a long time fostered, of dissolving the true and essential interests which connect the two nations, and of destroying the bonds of their ancient amity by means to be replete with injustice.

It will not be at all necessary to enter into an elaborate refutation of the reasons and pretended griefs which were alleged in the manifesto, to convince every impartial man of their entire want of solidity. It will be sufficient to observe, in few words, with respect to the offer which was made by his Britannic Majesty for opening an amicable conference, that the sole object of these conferences could only be thus, to take into consideration the naval treaty (spoken of above, that the construction of this treaty, conceived as it is, in terms the most clear and explicit, could not be a subject of any doubt or equivocation, that it gives the neutral powers a free right of conveying to the belligerent powers all kinds of naval stores; that the Republic, neither proposing any thing else to themselves, nor desiring any thing more of his Britannic Majesty than the quiet undisturbed enjoyment of rights stipulated in this treaty, a point so manifest and incontrovertibly equitable, could not perceive any reason or motive for a negotiation, or any other new convention, which must have been derogatory to the treaty in question, particularly as their High Mightinesses could not prevail upon themselves, nor experience the
least

least disposition to renounce, voluntarily, rights justly acquired, nor to desist from their rights by a regard for the Court of England; a renunciation which, though advantageous to one of the belligerent powers, would be totally incompatible with the principles of neutrality, and by which their High Mightinesses would, from another quarter, have subjected the state to dangers which they think it is their duty most solemnly to avert; a renunciation also which would have carried with it a most irreparable injury to their commerce and navigation, which is the principal support of the Republic, and the source of all their prosperity: for the different branches of their commerce are severally so intimately connected with each other, so as to form one whole, that it is impossible to separate one part of so principal a nature as was expected by the Court of London, without the entire ruin and destruction of the general body; not to mention that at this time, when their High Mightinesses made a reasonable difficulty of acceding to the proposed conference, they yet qualified and tempered this effectual exercise of their rights by a provisional resolution.

As for the succours required, their High Mightinesses cannot dissemble, that they never could conceive how his Britannic Majesty thought himself justified to insist, under the most distant appearance of right or equity, for the assistance stipulated by the treaties, at the time when he had already forgone the obligation which they imposed on him towards the Republic. Their High Mightinesses were not less surprised to see that, whilst the disturbances in America, and their direct consequences, could not afflict the Republic by virtue of any treaty, and that the assistance had not been required before the declaration of the Court of Spain had increased the number of the belligerent powers: his Britannic Majesty had nevertheless taken occasion, from this event, to insist on his demand with so much ardor and earnestness, as if his Majesty had a right to pretend and maintain, that, a war being once kindled between him and some other power, was alone sufficient to compel the States to grant directly, and without any previous examination, the said stipulated assistance.

The Republic, it is true, had bound itself by treaties to aid and assist the Kingdom of Great Britain, whenever that power should be attacked or threatened with an unjust war: the Republic was moreover to declare war in such a case against the aggressor; but their High Mightinesses never intended to give up that right which is the nature of a defensive alliance, and which cannot be disputed to the allied powers, to examine first, and before they grant the required assistance, or take part in the war, the principles of the dissensions which have prevailed;

vailed ; the nature of the differences from which they sprang ; as also to invelligate and maturely weigh the reasons and motives which may enforce the *Causa Fœderis*, and which are to form the basis of the equity and lawfulness of the war on the part of that confederate state claiming the aforesaid assistance. There is not a treaty extant, by which their High Mightinesses have foregone the independence of the States, or sacrificed their interests to those of Great Britain, so far as to deprive themselves of the right of so necessary and indispensable an examination ; by taking such steps as might insinuate, that they should be looked upon as compelled to submit to the pleasure of Great Britain, by granting the required assistance ; even when the above Court, being at variance with another power, thinks proper to prefer a war to an amicable accommodation on well-supported complaints.

It is not, therefore, through spirit of party, or the scheme of a predominant cabal, but, after a mature deliberation, and by a desire of supporting the dearest interests of the Republic, that all the provincial States respectively have, with one voice, testified they were of opinion, that the assistance required should be politely refused ; and their High Mightinesses would not have failed to communicate to his Britannic Majesty, in consequence of those resolutions, an answer to the repeated requests for assistance, had they not been prevented from so doing by the violent and unprecedented insult offered to the Dutch flag, under the command of Rear-admiral Byland ; by their being refused redress on so serious a matter, and by his Majesty's declaration, no less strange than unjust, in regard to the suspension of the treaties which subsisted between him and the Republic. There were so many events, which, as they required deliberations of a different kind, put an end to those which were held in consequence of the aforesaid requisitions. It is in vain, and in opposition to all truth, that endeavours have been used to multiply the number of grievances, by alledging the suppression of duties on exports as a measure calculated to facilitate the carrying of naval stores over to France : for, besides that the said suppression is an object which respects the interior regulation of commerce, to which all sovereigns have an uncontroverted right, and for which they are accountable to no one, the matter has been put in deliberation, but never finally resolved upon ; so that those duties are still on the former footing ; and what is set forth respecting this matter in the manifesto is totally groundless, though it cannot be denied, that the conduct of his Britannic Majesty towards the Republic furnished their High Mightinesses

nesses with but too many motives to justify such a measure on their part.

The displeasure of his Britannic Majesty, in regard to what has been done for Paul Jones, is equally groundless. Their High Mightinesses had for many years before given general and positive orders for the admission into their ports, of all privateers and armed ships, with their prizes; orders which have been observed and executed without the least exception: in this case their High Mightinesses could not desist from such orders, in regard to an armed ship, which, provided with a commission from the American Congress, was in the Texel, together with the frigates of a sovereign power, without assuming the part of judges, and giving a decision in a matter which their High Mightinesses were not obliged to take any cognizance of, and in which it seems to them contrary to the interest of the Republic to interfere: their High Mightinesses, therefore, thought it best not to swerve from the rules established for so long a time, but resolved to lay the strongest injunctions, lest the said privateers and armed ships should take in any warlike stores, and desired them to quit the road as soon as possible, without being permitted to sojourn, but just as long as would prove absolutely necessary to repair the damages suffered at sea; declaring formally at the same time, that in case of a longer delay, their departure should be positively insisted upon. To this purpose, the commanding officer in the said road took care to make every requisite disposition, the effects of which the privateer of Paul Jones had hardly time to prevent. In regard to what has happened in other parts of the world, the informations transmitted to their High Mightinesses, from time to time, from the East Indies, are in direct opposition to those which seem to have been laid before his Britannic Majesty. The frequent complaints of the East India direction addressed to them, and which the love of peace had obliged the latter to smother, as it were, in their breasts, are so many incontrovertible proofs of the assertion. The measures taken in regard to the West Indies, before mentioned, will serve at all times for an unquestionable proof of the sincerity of the zeal, and of the attention with which their High Mightinesses have assiduously endeavoured to observe, in these countries, the most exact and strict neutrality; nor could their High Mightinesses find out the least legal proof of any infraction of their orders in this respect.

As for what concerns the project of an eventual treaty of commerce with North America, framed by a member of the government of the province of Holland, without the sanction of any public authority; and the memorials presented on this

matter

matter by the Chevalier Yorke, the matter happened as follows :

As soon as this ambassador had presented a memorial, dated Nov. 10, 1780, their High Mightinesses, without noticing the expressions, rather unbecoming between sovereigns, with which this memorial abounded, did not delay entering into the most serious deliberation on that matter ; and by their resolution of the 27th of the same month, they did not hesitate to disclaim and disapprove publicly whatever had been done in this affair.

After this they had every reason to expect that his Britannic Majesty would have acceded to this declaration, since he could not be ignorant that their High Mightinesses have no jurisdiction over the respective provinces, and that it was to the States of Holland, to whom, as being invested, as the states of the other provinces, with a sovereign and exclusive authority over their subjects, was to be submitted, an affair which their High Mightinesses had no reason to doubt but the other states of the said provinces would regulate according to the exigency of the case, and conformably to the laws of the state, and the principles of equity. The eagerness with which the Chevalier Yorke, by his second memorial, insisted on the punishment, could not, of course, but appear very strange to their High Mightinesses, that if he did not receive the very same day an answer to his memorial in every respect satisfactory, he should find himself obliged to acquaint his court thereof by an extraordinary courier. Their High Mightinesses, informed of this declaration, soon perceived its importance, as a manifestation of the measures already determined on in the King's council ; and although, according to the established custom, such verbal declarations from foreign ministers admit of no deliberation, they nevertheless thought proper to set it aside on this occasion, and to desire their recorder to wait on the Chevalier, and inform him, that his memorial had been taken *ad referendum*, by the deputies of the respective provinces, according to the received custom and constitution of government ; adding at the same time, what seemed designedly omitted in the manifesto, that they would endeavour to frame an answer to his memorial as soon as possible, and the constitution of government would permit. In consequence thereof, a few days after, the deputies of the provinces of Holland gave notice to the assembly of their High Mightinesses, that the states of their province had *una voce*, resolved to require the advice of their court of justice in regard to the requisition of punishment, requesting the said court to give their opinion as soon as possible, foregoing all other affairs. Their High Mightinesses did not fail to acquaint the

the Chevalier Yorke with the above resolve; but what was their surprize and astonishment, when they understood that the said ambassador, after having read his instructions, had sent a note to the recorder, wherein he called the above resolve illusive, and flatly refused to transmit it to his court! This obliged their High Mightinesses to send it to Count Welderen, their minister at London, with orders to lay it immediately before the minister of his Britannic Majesty; but the refusal of the latter created an obstacle to the execution of those orders.

All the circumstances of this affair being thus exposed, the impartial public will be enabled to appreciate the principal motive, or rather pretence, to which his Britannic Majesty has had recourse, in order to give a scope to his designs against the Republic. To this we may reduce the whole matter: his Majesty was informed of a negociation which would have taken place between a member of the government of one of the provinces, and a representative of the American Congress; which negociation intended to lay the plan of a treaty of commerce to be concluded between the Republic and the said colonies, *casu quo*, that is to say, that in case the independency of those colonies should be acknowledged by the crown of England; this negociation, although conditional, and holding by a clause which depended on the anterior act of his Majesty, this negociation, which without the said act, or anterior declaration, could not have the least effect, was misconstrued by his Majesty, and excited his displeasure to such a degree, that he thought proper to require from the States a public disavowal and disapprobation as well as a complete punishment and satisfaction: it was in consequence, and without the least delay, that their High Mightinesses acceded to the first part of his requisition; but the punishment insisted upon was not within their power, and they could not assent to it, without striking at the root of the fundamental constitution of the state. The states of the province of Holland were the only ones to which it pertained lawfully to take cognizance of it, and to provide thereto by the ordinary means and the authority of the laws. This sovereign state adhering to the maxims which oblige them to respect the authority of the laws, and fully convinced that the maintaining that department in all the integrity and impartiality which are inseparable from it, is the firmest basis of the supreme power; that sovereign state, obliged by what is held most sacred, to defend and protect the rights and privileges of its subjects, could not forget itself so far as to submit to the will of his Britannic Majesty, by attempting to overturn those rights and privileges, and exceeding the limits prescribed by the fundamental laws of its government: these laws required the
intervention

intervention of the judicial department, and those were the means which the above States resolved to use, by requiring on this object, the advice of the court of justice, established in their province.

By an adherence to this method it was, that, before the eyes of his Britannic Majesty, the English nation, and all Europe, were displayed the unalterable principles of that justice and equity which form the leading feature of the Dutch constitution, and which, in so important a part of public administration, (we mean that which concerns the exercise of the judiciary power) will for ever serve as a bulwark against whatever could militate with the security and independence of a free nation. It was also by these means, and by following this road, that, far from precluding justice, or evading the punishment required, a free course, on the contrary, has been laid open to a regular process, conformably to the constitutional principles of the Republic ; and by the same reason, in short, depriving the Court of London of any pretence to complain of a denial of justice, care has been taken to anticipate the least shadow, or appearance of reason, which might have authorized that Court to make reprisals ; to which, nevertheless, it has had recourse without scruple, in a manner equally odious and unjust.

To these ends, and since, after the repeated outrages and heavy losses which the subjects of this Republic must have experienced from his Britannic Majesty, their High Mightinesses find themselves furthermore provoked, and assailed by his aforesaid Majesty, and compelled to use those means which they have in hand, in order to defend the precious rights of their liberty and independence ; they entertain the firmest hope that the Lord of Hosts, the God of their fathers, who, by the palpable direction of Providence, supported and carried this Republic through the greatest dangers, will bless the means which they have determined to employ, by crowning the justice of their arms with the ever-triumphant assistance of his Omnipotent protection ; whilst their High Mightinesses will ardently sigh after the instant, when they shall see their neighbour and old ally, but now their enemy, recalled to sentiments more moderate and equitable. And it is at that period, where their High Mightinesses will improve all the opportunities which, consonant with the honour and independence of a free state, may tend to a reconciliation between them and their old friend and ally.

Thus given and settled in the assembly of their High Mightinesses our lords the States General of the United Provinces, at the Hague, the 10th day of March, 1781.

(Signed,)

COCQ. HAAFTON, Vt.

By command, H. FAGEL.

Address

Address by the House of Lords to the King, Jan. 6, 1781

Most Gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subject the Lords spiritual and temporal, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to return your Majesty our humble thanks for your most gracious message, and for having been pleased to communicate to this House your Majesty's public declaration, setting forth the causes and motives which have obliged your Majesty to direct letters of marque and general reprisals to be issued against the States General of the United Provinces, and their subjects.

We observe with much concern and just indignation, that the governing part of a nation, whom the ties of common interest, and the faith of mutual engagements, should have made a sincere friend, has employed the most hostile and pernicious means to annoy an ancient ally, by leaguings with your Majesty's revolted subjects, and furnishing constant and effectual aids to your inveterate enemies.

We acknowledge, with the highest satisfaction and warmest sentiments of gratitude, your Majesty's wisdom in endeavouring to bring the States General back to those principles which they have deserted, and in the reluctance you have shown to proceed to hostile measures against a state connected with this country by the closest ties of mutual interest. Your Majesty's great moderation and forbearance strongly aggravated their conduct, which made the present rupture indispensably necessary.

We beg leave to assure your Majesty, that we shall, with the warmest and most dutiful zeal, give every support to those vigorous measures which your Majesty has determined to pursue. We are sensible they are founded in justice and wisdom, and are such as the honour of your Majesty's crown, and the essential interests of the nation require.

His Majesty's most gracious Answer.

My Lords,

I THANK you for this very dutiful and affectionate address. I have the fullest reliance upon your support; and I trust that the vigorous exertions I am determined to make, will, under the providence of God, defeat the designs of all my enemies, and procure to my people the blessings of a safe and honourable peace.

Address

Address by the House of Commons to his Majesty, Jan. 26, 1781.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons of Great Britain, in Parliament assembled, return your Majesty our most humble thanks for your Majesty's most gracious message, and for having been pleased to communicate to this House your Majesty's public declaration, of the causes and motives which have obliged your Majesty to direct letters of marque and general reprisals to be issued against the States General of the United Provinces and their subjects.

Permit us, Sir, to assure your Majesty, that we take a most sincere part in the concern and regret which your Majesty expresses for the unavoidable necessity of hostile measures against the ancient friends and natural allies of your kingdom.

We acknowledge, with the warmest sentiments of gratitude, the wisdom and moderation of your Majesty's conduct, in using every endeavour before your Majesty proceeded to extremities, to prevail on the States General to revert to that system of sound policy which used to govern their councils in the best times of the Republic, and which formed and established her union with Great Britain, for the common interest and mutual safety of both countries.

We beg leave to assure your Majesty, that your faithful Commons will, with a firm and determined resolution, support your Majesty against all your enemies, in the prosecution of this just and necessary war, for the maintenance of the honour of your crown, and for the rights and interests of your people.

His Majesty's most gracious Answer.

Gentlemen,

NOTHING could give me so much satisfaction as this very loyal and affectionate address. I return you my most cordial thanks for the zealous assurances of the continuance of your support; and I assure you, on my part, that I never called for that support except when I was convinced that it was essentially necessary for the welfare and security of my kingdoms, and for the maintenance of the honour of my crown, which I shall always consider as inseparably connected with the interests of my people.

Speech of Mr. Speaker to his Majesty, July 18, 1781.

Sir,

YOUR Majesty's faithful Commons have, in the course of the present session, granted every supply which your Majesty has asked, in order to enable you to answer all the emergencies of the present crisis of public affairs, and to resist effectually the unprovoked confederacy which has been formed against this country—and, although in the raising of those supplies they have done every thing in their power to render them as little burthensome to the people as possible, and have found the resources of this country equal to every demand which has been made upon it, yet, as the burthens which the necessity of the times obliged them to impose were great indeed, however cheerfully imposed, his Majesty's faithful Commons trust, that his Majesty's humanity and wisdom will take care, that the supplies they have so liberally granted shall be applied only to the purposes for which they have been voted.

Sir,

I have the satisfaction to inform you, that during the present session your faithful Commons have paid particular attention to the support and extension of public credit, and the improvement of the public revenues, in order to be the better prepared to strengthen your Majesty's arms, and enable them to answer the future exigencies of affairs.

Sir,

I have in my hand the last of the bills which make up the supply of the current year. It is an act for enabling your Majesty to enlarge the charter of the united company of merchants of England trading to the East Indies, and for securing to your Majesty, for public use, the four hundred and two thousand pounds; which bill I most dutifully present from your faithful Commons, who humbly entreat that it may receive your Majesty's royal approbation.

His Majesty's most gracious Speech, July 18, 1781.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

ALTHOUGH the business of this session has required a longer attendance than may have been consistent with your private convenience, yet I am persuaded that you look back with satisfaction on the time you have employed in a faithful

discharge of your duty to your country, in the present arduous and critical state of public affairs.

I cannot let you depart into your respective counties, without assuring you of my entire approbation of your conduct, and of my perfect confidence in the loyalty and good affections of this Parliament.

The zeal and ardour which you have shown for the honour of my crown, your firm and steady support of a just cause, and the great efforts you have made to enable me to surmount all the difficulties of this extensive and complicated war, must convince the world that the ancient spirit of the British nation is not abated or diminished.

In the midst of these difficulties, you have formed regulations for the better management and improvement of the revenue; you have given additional strength and stability to public credit; and your deliberations on the affairs of the East India Company have terminated in such measures as will, I trust, produce great and essential advantages to my kingdoms.

I have observed, with much satisfaction, that during the course of that important business, your attention was not more anxiously directed to the benefits to be derived from the territorial acquisitions than to the happiness and comfort of the inhabitants of those remote provinces.

Whatever may remain to be done for securing those valuable possessions, and for restraining the abuses to which they are peculiarly liable, you will, I doubt not, proceed to provide for at your next meeting, with the same wisdom and temper that have governed your late proceedings and inquiries.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

My particular thanks are due to you for the ample provision you have made for the service of the current year. I see with great pleasure that you have had it in your power to apply so large a sum to the discharge of the debt of the navy, and that the supplies which you have granted have been raised in a manner the least burthensome to the property and industry of my faithful people.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

While I lament the continuance of the present troubles, and the extension of the war, I have the conscious satisfaction to reflect, that the constant aim of all my councils has been to bring back my deluded subjects in America to the happiness and liberty they formerly enjoyed, and to see the tranquillity of Europe restored.

To defend the dominions, and to maintain the rights of this country, was, on my part, the sole cause, and is the only object of the war. Peace is the earnest wish of my heart ; but I have too firm a reliance on the spirit and resources of the nation, and the powerful assistance of my Parliament, and the protection of a just and all-ruling Providence, to accept it upon any other terms or conditions than such as may consist with the honour and dignity of my crown, and the permanent interest and security of my people.

Then the Lord Chancellor, by his Majesty's command, said,
My Lords and Gentlemen,

IT is His Majesty's royal will and pleasure, that this Parliament be prorogued to Thursday, the thirteenth day of September next, to be then there holden ; and this Parliament is accordingly prorogued to Thursday, the thirteenth day of September next.

His Majesty's most gracious Speech, Nov. 27, 1781.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

WHEN I last met you in Parliament, I acquainted you with the arduous situation of public affairs at that time, and I represented to you the objects which I had in view, and the resolution with which I was determined to persevere in the defence of my dominions against the combined powers of my enemies, until such a pacification could be made, as might consist with the honour of my crown, and the permanent interest and security of my people. The war is still unhappily prolonged by that restless ambition which first excited our enemies to commence it, and which still continues to disappoint my earnest desire and diligent exertion to restore the public tranquillity : but I should not answer the trust committed to the sovereign of a free people, nor make a suitable return to my subjects for their constant, zealous, and affectionate attachment to my person, family, and government, if I consented to sacrifice, either to my own desire of peace, or to their temporary ease and interest, those essential rights, and permanent interests, upon the maintenance and preservation of which the glory, wealth and security of this country must ever principally

depend. The late appearance of our affairs in the East Indies, and the successful and glorious arrival of the numerous reinforcements of our troops, must have given you satisfaction ;

tion ; but in the course of this year, my assiduous endeavours to guard the extensive dominions of my crown have not been attended with success equal to the justice and uprightness of my views ; and it is with great concern that I inform you, that the events of war have been very unfortunate to my arms in Virginia, having ended in the loss of my forces in that province.

No endeavours have been wanting on my part to extinguish that spirit of rebellion which our enemies have found means to foment and maintain in the colonies, and to restore to my deluded subjects in America that happy and prosperous condition which they formerly derived from a due obedience to the laws ; but the late misfortune in that quarter calls loudly for your firm concurrence and assistance, to frustrate the designs of our enemies, equally prejudicial to the real interests of America, and to those of Great Britain.

In the last session you made a considerable progress in your inquiries into the state and condition of our dominions and revenues in the East Indies : you will, I am persuaded, resume the prosecution of that important deliberation with the same spirit and temper in which it was begun, and proceed with the same attention and anxiety to consider how those remote provinces may be held and governed with the greatest security and advantage to this country, and by what means the happiness of the native inhabitants may be best promoted.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I will order the estimates for the ensuing year to be laid before you. I rely on your wisdom and public spirit for such supplies as the circumstances of our affairs shall be found to require. Among the many ill consequences which attend the continuation of the present war, I most sincerely regret the additional burthens which it must unavoidably bring upon my faithful subjects.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

In the prosecution of this great and important contest in which we are engaged, I retain a firm confidence in the protection of divine Providence, and a perfect conviction of the justice of my cause ; and I have no doubt but that, by the concurrence and support of my Parliament, by the valour of my fleets and armies, and by a vigorous, animated, and united exertion of the faculties and resources of my people, I shall be enabled to restore the blessings of a safe and honourable peace to all my dominions.

Address by the House of Lords to his Majesty, Nov. 27, 1781.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Lords spiritual and temporal, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to return your Majesty our humble thanks for your most gracious speech from the throne.

It is with equal concern and indignation that we see the war prolonged by that restless ambition which first excited your Majesty's enemies to commence it, and which still continues to disappoint your Majesty's earnest desire and diligent exertion to restore the public tranquillity.

We acknowledge, with the sincerest and warmest gratitude, your Majesty's wisdom and constant attention to the real welfare of your people, equally conspicuous in your earnest desire of peace, and in your fixed and unalterable resolution never to sacrifice, either to that desire, or to the temporary ease and relief of your subjects, those essential rights and permanent interests, upon the maintenance and preservation of which the future strength and security of this country must ever principally depend.

We feel great satisfaction in the favourable appearance of our affairs in the East Indies, and in the safe and prosperous arrival of the numerous commercial fleets of these kingdoms; but we regret, that in the course of this year your Majesty's assiduous endeavours to guard the extensive dominions of your crown have not been attended with success equal to the justice and uprightness of your Majesty's views; and we lament that the events of war have been so unfortunate to your Majesty's arms in Virginia.

We are gratefully sensible of the paternal solicitude your Majesty has shewn for the general happiness of your people, in the endeavours your Majesty has used to extinguish that spirit of rebellion which our enemies have found means to foment and maintain in the Colonies, and to restore to your deluded subjects in America that happy and prosperous condition which they formerly derived from due obedience to the laws; and we beg leave to assure your Majesty of our firm concurrence and assistance to frustrate the designs of our enemies, equally prejudicial to the real interests of America, and to those of Great Britain.

We will, without loss of time, resume the deliberation upon the state and condition of the British possessions and revenues in the East Indies, will carry it on with the same spirit and temper in which it was begun, and proceed with the same at-
tention

tention and anxiety to consider how those remote provinces may be held and governed with the greatest security and advantage to this country, and by what means the happiness of the native inhabitants may be best promoted.

Firmly resolved to decline no difficulty or hazard in the defence of our country, and for the preservation of its essential rights and interests, we shall continue to give our most hearty concurrence and support in the prosecution of the great and important contest in which we are engaged.

We rely upon the protection of divine Providence in so just a cause, and fully trust, that, by the concurrence and support which we shall most cheerfully give, by the valour of your Majesty's fleets and armies, and by the vigorous, animated, and united exertions of the faculties and resources of your people, your Majesty will be enabled to disappoint the ambitious designs of your enemies, and restore the blessing of a safe and honourable peace to all your dominions,

His Majesty's most gracious Answer.

My Lords,

I THANK you for this very dutiful and affectionate address. The assurances of your cheerful concurrence and support in the prosecution of the great and important contest in which we are engaged, give me the highest satisfaction, and must have the most salutary effects. It shall be my most constant endeavour to make the best use of this support for the attainment of the sole end which I have ever in view, a safe and honourable peace.

Address by the House of Commons to his Majesty, Nov. 27, 1781.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons of Great Britain, in Parliament assembled, return your Majesty the thanks of this House for your most gracious speech from the throne.

We assure your Majesty, that we see with concern that the war is still unhappily prolonged by that restless ambition which first excited our enemies to commence it, and which still continues to disappoint your Majesty's earnest desire and diligent exertion to restore the public tranquillity.

We are sensibly affected by your Majesty's paternal expressions of concern for the real welfare of your subjects; and we receive with the strongest emotions of duty and gratitude your

Majesty's gracious and endearing declaration, that you should not answer the trust committed to the sovereign of a free people, nor make a suitable return to your subjects for their constant, zealous, and affectionate attachment to your person, family, and government, if you consented to sacrifice, either to your own desire of peace, or to their temporary ease and relief, those essential rights and permanent interests, upon the maintenance and preservation of which the future strength and security of this country must ever principally depend.

We declare, on our part, that we know no means of making to your Majesty any return so suitable and so just, and of answering the great trust committed to us by those whom we represent, as by giving your Majesty this firm assurance, that we are resolved to assist and support your Majesty, to the utmost of our power, in maintaining and preserving the essential rights and permanent interests of your crown and people.

The favourable appearance of affairs in the East Indies, and the safe and prosperous arrival of the numerous commercial fleets of your kingdoms, have given us great satisfaction: but we sincerely regret, that your Majesty's assiduous endeavours to guard your extensive dominions have not in all places been attended with success, and we learn with the deepest concern, that the events of war have been very unfortunate to your Majesty's arms in Virginia, and have ended in the loss of your forces in that province.

We are fully persuaded that the principal view of the confederacy of our enemies was to foment and maintain the rebellion in North America; and, under the specious delusion of the establishment of an independent empire, to render your Majesty's colonies subservient to the power and influence of the crown of France: but your Majesty may rely on our steady assistance to second your Majesty's endeavours to defeat the dangerous designs of our enemies, equally prejudicial to the real interests of America, and to those of Great Britain.

We will not fail to resume the great and momentous consideration of the state and condition of the dominions and revenues which this country possesses in the East Indies; and we trust that, in our deliberations on those important matters, we shall proceed with the same spirit and temper in which they were begun, and with the same care and anxiety to consider how those remote provinces may be held and governed with the greatest security and advantage to this nation, and by what means the happiness of the native inhabitants may be best promoted.

In this arduous conjuncture, we consider it as our first duty to our country to grant your Majesty such supplies as the circumstances

cumstances of affairs shall be found to require. We cannot but feel that the war is burthenfome and expensive ; but we are convinced at the same time that it is just and necessary ; and nothing on our part shall be wanting to give efficacy and success to the valour of your Majesty's fleets and armies , and we still have a firm confidence, that, by a vigorous, animated, and united exertion of the resources and faculties of the nation, and the spirit of a free people, your Majesty will be enabled, under the protection of divine Providence, to restore the blessings of a safe and honourable peace to all your dominions.

His Majesty's most gracious Answer,

My Lords,

I RETURN you my most cordial thanks for this very loyal, dutiful, and affectionate address.

It breathes the spirit and firmness of a brave and free people. Nothing could afford me so much satisfaction, or tend so effectually to the public safety and welfare in this critical situation.

Resolved by the House of Commons, Feb. 27, 1782,

THAT an humble address be presented to his Majesty, most humbly to represent to his Majesty, that the further prosecution of offensive war on the continent of North America, for the purpose of reducing the revolted colonies to obedience by force, will be the means of weakening the efforts of this country against her European enemies, tends, under the present circumstances, dangerously to increase the mutual enmity so fatal to the interests both of Great Britain and America, and by preventing an happy reconciliation with that country, to frustrate the earnest desire graciously expressed by his Majesty to restore the blessings of public tranquillity.

His Majesty's most gracious Answer.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

THERE are no objects nearer to my heart than the ease, happiness, and prosperity of my people.

You may be assured, that in pursuance of your advice, I shall take such measures as shall appear to me to be most conducive to the restoration of harmony between Great Britain and the revolted colonies, so essential to the prosperity of both, and that
my

my efforts shall be directed in the most effectual manner against our European enemies, until such a peace can be obtained as shall consist with the interests and permanent welfare of my kingdoms.

Resolved by the House of Commons, March 4, 1782,

THAT an humble address be presented to his Majesty, to return his Majesty the thanks of this House, for his most gracious answer to their address presented to his Majesty on Friday last; and for the assurances his Majesty has most graciously been pleased to give them of his intention, in pursuance of the advice of this House, to take such measures as shall appear most conducive to the restoration of harmony between Great Britain and the revolted colonies; and that his efforts shall be directed in the most effectual manner against our European enemies, until such a peace can be obtained as shall consist with the permanent welfare and prosperity of his kingdoms. This House being convinced that nothing can, in the present circumstances of this country, so essentially promote those great objects of his Majesty's paternal care for his people, as the measures which his faithful Commons have most humbly but earnestly recommended to his Majesty.

Message from his Majesty to the House of Commons, April 9, 1782.

GEORGE REX.

HIS Majesty being concerned to find that discontents and jealousies are prevailing among his loyal subjects in Ireland, upon matters of great weight and importance, earnestly recommends to this House to take the same into their most serious consideration, in order to such a final adjustment as may give mutual satisfaction to both kingdoms.

G. R.

Resolved by the House of Commons, April 9, 1782,

THAT an humble address be presented to his Majesty to return his Majesty the thanks of this House for his most gracious message; and to assure his Majesty that this House, feeling with his Majesty the deepest concern that discontents and jealousies should have arisen among his Majesty's loyal subjects in Ireland, will, without delay, take the same into their most serious consideration, in order to such a final adjustment as may give mutual satisfaction to both kingdoms.

Message

Message from his Majesty to the House of Commons, April 15, 1782.

GEORGE REX.

HIS Majesty taking into consideration the supplies which have been given with so much liberality, and supported with such uncommon firmness and fortitude by his people in the present extensive war, recommends to his faithful Commons the consideration of an effectual plan of œconomy through all the branches of the public expenditure ; towards which important object, his Majesty has taken into his actual consideration a reform and regulation in his civil establishment, which he will shortly cause to be laid before this House, desiring their assistance towards carrying the same more fully into execution. His Majesty has no reserves with his people, on whose affections he rests with a sure reliance, as the best support of the true honour and dignity of his crown and government ; and as they have hitherto been his best resource upon every emergency, so he regards them as the most solid and stable security for an honourable provision for his person and family.

G. R.

Resolved by the House of Commons, April 15, 1782,

THAT an humble address be presented to his Majesty, to express to his Majesty that his truly paternal regard for the welfare of the people, meets a just return in the gratitude produced in the breasts of his faithful Commons, by his Majesty's most gracious message to this House.

To assure his Majesty that his favourable acceptance of the zeal and fidelity of his subjects, manifested throughout the whole course of this arduous war, will animate them to the utmost exertions for the glory and happiness of a prince who sets a just value on the services, and is touched with an affectionate sympathy in the sufferings of his people.

That his faithful Commons, deeply affected with his Majesty's noble and generous procedure, and encouraged by a recommendation, at once glorious to his Majesty, and perfectly consonant to our desires and duties, will, as soon as his Majesty shall be pleased to communicate more particularly the reformations and regulations he is pleased to adopt, apply ourselves with all speed and diligence to give a full effect to his Majesty's most gracious intentions.

That his faithful Commons consider the unreserved confidence which his Majesty reposes in this House, as a full compensation for their earnest and dutiful endeavours to deserve that

invaluable

invaluable testimony of his royal favour ; a confidence by which his Majesty will reign in the hearts of his people, and in which he can never be deceived with regard to his crown, his person, and his family. A King of Great Britain cannot have so perfect or so honourable security for every thing which can make a King truly great and truly happy, as in the genuine and natural support of an uninfluenced and independent House of Commons.

Message from his Majesty to both Houses of Parliament, May 2, 1782.

GEORGE III.

HIS Majesty has found with concern, that notwithstanding the two several payments of the civil list debt, and the subsequent increase of the civil list revenue, a considerable debt is since incurred, his Majesty therefore desires the advice and aid of the House of Lords, as to the mode of discharging that debt, and preventing the like in future, without laying any new burthen on his people, whom it is ever his wish as much as possible to relieve.

For these purposes his Majesty lays before the House the plan of reform which he has judged proper to make in his establishment, to be perfected by the wisdom of Parliament, for the honour of the crown, and the public benefit.

G. R.

Address of the House of Lords to his Majesty, May 2, 1782,

THAT an humble address be presented to his Majesty, to return his Majesty the dutiful acknowledgments of this House for his most gracious message, and for the communication his Majesty has been pleased to make of the plan of reform he has executed in his establishments ; and to assure his Majesty, that this House will concur in all measures which shall appear expedient for effecting the wise and beneficial purposes which his Majesty has had in view of this plan of reform, for the honour of his crown and the public ; fully trusting that so bright an example will be productive of the most salutary effect, by infusing a similar spirit of œconomy throughout every branch of the public expenditure.

Resolved

Resolved by the House of Commons, May 2, 1782,

THAT an humble address be presented to his Majesty, to assure his Majesty that this House, affected with the most grateful sense of his Majesty's goodness in desiring the advice of this House with regard to the discharge of the debt affecting his civil list revenue, and for preventing the like in future, without any new burthen on his people, will take into immediate consideration his Majesty's most gracious message; and that his faithful Commons will apply themselves without delay, to find the best means of providing for the discharge of the debt on the civil list, and will use their best endeavours to give stability and effect to the reform which his Majesty has been graciously pleased to make in his establishments, for the honour of the crown and the public benefit; and that this House, in imitation of such an example, will hold themselves particularly bound to make every exertion in their power to establish a strict œconomy in all the branches of the public expenditure.

Lord John Cavendish presented to the House of Commons, by his Majesty's Command, May 2, 1782,

AN ACCOUNT of the several Sums which were due and unpaid at the Receipt of the Exchequer, for the Majesty's Civil Government, on the 5th Day of April, 1782, as near as the time can at present be ascertained.			
Money applicable towards discharging the same, and the Debt remaining unprovided for, viz.			
To her Majesty the Queen, on 50,000 <i>l.</i> per annum	_____	_____	12,500 0 0
To his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, on 20,204 <i>l.</i> 12 <i>s.</i> 7 <i>d.</i> per annum	_____	_____	5,051 3 1
To defray incidental expenses for his said Royal Highness	_____	_____	616 0 0
For the Princes Frederick, William, Edward, Ernest Augustus, and Adolphus	_____	_____	2,750 0 0
To defray incidental expenses for the said Princes	_____	_____	981 11 3
To the Duke of Cumberland, on 9,000 <i>l.</i> per annum	_____	_____	2,250 0 0
For pensions to the servants of the late Queen	_____	_____	79 11 0
For pensions to the servants of the late Princess Dowager of Wales	_____	_____	6,260 8 0
To the cofferer of his Majesty's household	_____	_____	75,656 11 8
To the treasurer of the chamber	_____	_____	354 0 15
To the master of the great wardrobe	_____	_____	15,532 12 7
For his Majesty's works and gardens	_____	_____	49,742 0 3
For the extraordinaries of his Majesty's stables	_____	_____	4,106 6 11
To his Majesty's goldsmith, for plate	_____	_____	799 3 4
For the mender of the robes	_____	_____	1,765 7 8
To foreign ministers on their ordinary and extraordinary allowances	_____	_____	42,202 2 0
For fees and salaries to officers, payable at the exchequer; and also for pensions and annuities payable at do.	_____	_____	80,518 16 1
For pensions and bounty paid by Lord Gage	_____	_____	46,706 9 7
To the band of gentlemen pensioners	_____	_____	3,000 0 0
To the secretaries of state, for secret service	_____	_____	2,250 0 0
To the secretary of the post-office, do.	_____	_____	1,784 16 0
Carried over			394,244 0 6½

CONTINGENCIES of divers Natures viz,

Brought over 394,244 0 6 $\frac{3}{4}$

	£.	s.	d.
To the King's printer	3,770	7	6
For incidents of the board of trade, by estimate	1,500	0	0
To the usher of the court of exchequer	245	14	4
To the usher of the receipt of exchequer	18,237	8	3 $\frac{1}{4}$
To do. for pay of watchmen	108	0	0
To Ben. Schaller, for necessaries furnished the treasury	120	0	0
For rent for the privy-seal office	51	6	9
For do. for secretary of state's office	155	12	6
For do. or Mote Park	161	15	0
For do. of Cumberland House	316	18	6
To the under clerk of the council	100	0	0
For Chelsea water	26	7	0
To sundry sheriffs, for conviction of felons, &c.	1,740	0	0
To Thomas Sandby, for disbursements in Windsor Forest, by estimate	2,400	0	0
To Sir Henry Clinton, one of the commissioners for restoring peace to America	5,357	15	6
To Admiral Digby, another for do.	5,357	15	6

39,649 0 10 $\frac{1}{2}$

Carried over 433,893 1 5

Towards

VOL. IV	<i>Offices suppressed.</i>	<i>How supplied.</i>	<i>Amount of Saving.</i>	
	2d.	2d.	Brought over	7,500
	Board of Trade.	Duty to be done by a committee of the privy council, as it was done before the institution of the present board of Trade.	Somewhat more than	12,600
	3d.	3d.		
	Lords of Trade and Police in Scotland.	This board has no duties to be transferred.		6,600
	4th.	4th.		
	Board of Works.	This duty to be executed, so far as regards buildings, by the comptroller of his Majesty's buildings; so far as it regards gardens, by an officer to be called surveyor or comptroller of his Majesty's gardens—Persons actually professing the arts of building, and improving ground		7,462
A 2	5th.	5th.		
	Great Wardrobe.	Duties to be executed by the direction of the lord chamberlain		3,506
	6th.	6th.		
	Jewel Office.	Duties to be executed by the direction of the lord chamberlain.	About (besides fees)	2,000
			Carried over	<hr/> 39,668

<i>Officers suppressed.</i>	<i>How supplied.</i>	<i>Amount of Savings.</i>	<i>£.</i>
7th. Treasurer of the Chamber.	7th. Payments to be made at the exchequer.	Savings not yet exactly ascertained—The chief profits of this office in fees on payments, but those fees being saved, saves so much to the civil list: it may be about	Brought over 39,668
8th. Cofferer of the household.	8th. Payments to be made at the exchequer.	Ditto of the cofferer, about	3,000
9th. Six clerks of the board of green cloth } to be abolished.	9th. Their duties to be executed by the master of the household, with proper official officers under him.		8,000
		The other savings, not brought to account, as it is not yet possible to estimate them, but they must be considerable, when once the subordinate detail of office is regulated. That advantage cannot be immediate.	5
10th. The department of the master of the horse to be regulated.	10th.		3
		Carried over	53,668

Offices suppressed.
11th.

Pensions not to exceed a certain sum, and paymaster of the pensions to be suppressed.

Hon. Secy. &c.
11th.

All pensions to be paid at the exchequer. The future amount of pensions to be limited.

Amount of saving.
Brought over 53,668

12th.

The office of master of the harriers, and also the office of master of the stag-hounds.

12th.

About 1,200
Besides fees, amounting per ann. 1,500
to about -

13th.

The whole present establishment of the Mint, with all the offices dependent thereon.

13th.

To be provided for by contract with the governor of the Bank, or otherwise, proper attention being given that the value of the coin is not endangered by the arrangement.

14th.

Band of gentlemen pensioners to be regulated.

14th.

To be composed in future of officers on half-pay.

Besides fees, amounting on an average to per ann. and upwards 10,000

No saving; but will have a more respectable appearance, besides being an encouragement to the military service.

72,368

That an invariable order of payments shall take place, which it shall not be lawful for the lords of the treasury to depart from. The payments are to be classed. The first class (in regard to dignity) to be his Majesty's expences, and those of the royal family. The other classes to be arranged as may best preserve the punctuality necessary for his Majesty's honour, and the cheapness of the supply, which is always the result of punctual payment.

His Majesty's most gracious Speech, July 11, 1782.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

THE unwearied assiduity with which you have persevered in the discharge of your duty in Parliament during so long a session, bears the most honourable testimony to your zeal and industry in the service of the public, for which you have provided with the clearest discernment of its true interests, anxiously opening every channel for the return of peace, and furnishing with no less vigilance the means of carrying on the war, if that measure should be unavoidable.

The extensive powers with which I find myself invested to treat for reconciliation and amity with the colonies which have taken arms in North America, I shall continue to employ in the manner most conducive to the attainment of those objects, and with an earnestness suitable to their importance.

The zeal which my subjects in Ireland have expressed for the public service, shows that the liberality of your proceeding towards them is felt there as it ought, and has engaged their affections, equally with their duty and interest in the common cause.

The diligence and ardour with which you have entered upon the consideration of the British interests in the East Indies, are worthy of your wisdom, justice, and humanity. To protect the persons and fortunes of millions in those distant regions, and to combine our prosperity with their happiness, are objects which amply repay the utmost labour and exertion.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I return you my particular thanks for the very liberal supplies which you have granted with so much cheerfulness and zeal for the service of the current year. I reflect with extreme regret upon the heavy expence which the circumstances of public affairs unavoidably call for. It shall be my care to husband your means to the best advantage, and, as far as depends on me, to apply that œconomy which I have endeavoured to set on foot in my civil establishment to those more extensive branches of public expenditure, in which still more important advantages may be expected.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

The important successes, which, under the favour of divine Providence, the valour of my fleet in the West Indies hath obtained, promise a favourable issue to our operations in that quarter.

quarter. The events of war in the East Indies have also been prosperous. Nothing, however, can be more repugnant to my feelings than the long continuance of so complicated a war.

My ardent desire of peace has induced me to take every measure which promised the speediest accomplishment of my wishes; and I will continue to exert my best endeavours for that purpose. But if, for want of a corresponding disposition in our enemies, I should be disappointed in the hope I entertain of a speedy termination of the calamities of war, I rely on the spirit, affection, and unanimity of my Parliament and people, to support the honour of my crown and the interests of my kingdoms; not doubting that the blessing of Heaven, which I devoutly implore upon our arms, employed as they are in our just and necessary defence, will enable me to obtain fair and reasonable terms of pacification. The most triumphant career of victory would not excite me to aim at more; and I have the satisfaction to be able to add, that I see no reason which should induce me to think of accepting less.

Then the Lord Chancellor, by his Majesty's command; said,

My Lords and Gentlemen,

IT is his Majesty's royal will and pleasure, that this Parliament be prorogued to Tuesday, the 3d day of September next, to be then here holden; and this Parliament is accordingly prorogued to Tuesday, the 3d day of September next.

His Majesty's most gracious Speech, December 5, 1782,

My Lords and Gentlemen,

SINCE the close of the last session, I have employed my whole time in the care and attention which the important and critical conjuncture of public affairs required of me.

I lost no time in giving the necessary orders to prohibit the further prosecution of offensive war upon the continent of North America. Adopting, as my inclination will always lead me to do, with decision and effect, whatever I collect to be the sense of my Parliament and my people, I have pointed all my views and measures, as well in Europe as in North America, to an entire and cordial reconciliation with those colonies.

Finding it indispensable to the attainment of this object, I did not hesitate to go the full length of the powers vested in me, and offered to declare them free and independent States, by an article to be inserted in the treaty of peace. Provisional articles are agreed upon, to take effect whenever terms of peace shall be finally settled with the Court of France.

In thus admitting their separation from the crown of these kingdoms, I have sacrificed every consideration of my own to the wishes and opinion of my people. I make it my humble and earnest prayer to Almighty God, that Great Britain may not feel the evils which might result from so great a dismemberment of the empire; and that America may be free from those calamities which have formerly proved so the mother country, how essential monarchy is to the enjoyment of constitutional liberty. Religion, language, interest, affections may, and I hope will, yet prove a bond of permanent union between the two countries: to this end, neither attention nor disposition on my part shall be wanting.

While I have carefully abstained from all offensive operations in America, I have directed my whole force by land and sea against the other powers at war, with as much vigour as the situation of that force, at the commencement of the campaign, would permit. I trust that you feel the advantages resulting from the safety of the great branches of our trade. You must have seen, with pride and satisfaction, the gallant defence of the governor and the garrison of Gibraltar; and my fleet, after having effected the object of their destination, offering battle to the combined force of France and Spain on their own coasts; those of my kingdoms have remained at the same time perfectly secure, and your domestic tranquillity uninterrupted. This respectable state, under the blessing of God, I attribute to the entire confidence which subsists between me and my people, and to the readiness which has been shown by my subjects in my city of London, and in other parts of my kingdoms, to stand forth in the general defence. Some proofs have lately been given of public spirit in private men, which would do honour to any age and any country.

Having manifested to the whole world, by the most lasting examples, the signal spirit and bravery of my people, I conceived it a moment not unbecoming my dignity, and thought it a regard due to the lives and fortunes of such brave and gallant subjects, to show myself ready on my part to embrace fair and honourable terms of accommodation with all the powers at war.

I have the satisfaction to acquaint you that negotiations to this effect are considerably advanced, the result of which, as soon

soon as they are brought to a conclusion, shall be immediately communicated to you.

I have every reason to hope and believe, that I shall ere it in my power in a very short time to acquaint you, that they have ended in terms of pacification, which, I trust, you will see just cause to approve. I rely, however, with perfect confidence on the wisdom of my Parliament, and the spirit of my people, that if any unforeseen change in the dispositions of the belligerent powers should frustrate my confident expectations, they will approve of the preparations I have thought it advisable to make, and be ready to second the most vigorous efforts in the further prosecution of the war.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I have endeavoured, by every measure in my power, to diminish the burthens of my people. I lost no time in taking the most decided measures for introducing a better economy into the expensiture of the army.

I have carried into strict execution the several reductions in my civil list expences, directed by an act of the last session. I have introduced a further reform into other departments, and suppressed several sinecure places in them. I have, by this means, so regulated my establishments, that my expence shall not in future exceed my income.

I have ordered the estimate of the civil-list debt, laid before you last session, to be completed. The debt proving somewhat greater than could be then correctly stated, and the proposed reduction not immediately taking place, I trust you will provide for the deficiency, securing, as before, the re-payment out of my annual income.

I have ordered inquiry to be made into the application of the sum voted in support of the American sufferers, and I trust that you will agree with me, that a due and generous attention ought to be shown towards those who have relinquished their properties or professions from motives of loyalty to me, or attachment to the mother country.

As it may be necessary to give stability to some regulations by act of Parliament, I have ordered accounts of the several establishments, incidental expences, fees, and other emoluments of office, to be laid before you. Regulations have already taken place in some, which it is my intention to extend to all, and which, besides expediting all public business, must produce a very considerable saving, without taking from that ample encouragement which ought to be held forth to talents, diligence, and integrity, wherever they are to be found.

I have directed an inquiry to be made into whatever regards the landed revenue of my crown, as well as the management of my woods and forests, that both may be made as beneficial as possible, and that the latter may furnish a certain resource for supplying the navy, our great national bulwark, with its first material.

I have directed an investigation into the department of the mint, that the purity of the coin, of so much importance to commerce, may be always adhered to; that, by rendering the difficulty of counterfeiting greater, the lives of numbers may be saved, and every needless expence in it suppressed.

I must recommend to you an immediate attention to the great objects of the public receipts and expenditure; and, above all, to the state of the public debt. Notwithstanding the great increase of it during the war, it is to be hoped that such regulations may still be established, such savings made, and future loans so conducted, as to promote the means of its gradual redemption by a fixed course of payment. I must, with particular earnestness, distinguish for your serious consideration, that part of the debt which consists of navy, ordnance, and victualling bills; the enormous discount upon some of these bills shews this mode of payment to be a most ruinous expedient.

I have ordered the several estimates, made up as correctly as the present practice admits, to be laid before you. I hope that such further corrections as may be necessary will be made before the next year. It is my desire that you should be apprised of every expence before it is incurred, as far as the nature of each service can possibly admit. Matters of account can never be made too public.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

The scarcity and consequent high price of corn requires your instant interposition.

The great excess to which the crimes of theft and robbery have arisen, in many instances, accompanied with personal violence, particularly in the neighbourhood of this metropolis, has called of late for a strict and severe execution of the laws. It were much to be wished that these crimes could be prevented in their infancy, by correcting the vices become prevalent in a most alarming degree.

The liberal principles adopted by you concerning the rights and the commerce of Ireland, have done you the highest honour, and will, I trust, ensure that harmony which ought always to subsist between the two kingdoms. I am persuaded that a general increase of commerce throughout the empire

will prove the wisdom of your measures with regard to that object. I would recommend to you a revision of our whole trading system upon the same comprehensive principles, with a view to its utmost possible extension.

The regulation of a vast territory in Asia opens a large field for your wisdom, prudence, and foresight. I trust that you will be able to frame some fundamental laws which may make their connection with Great Britain a blessing to India; and that you will take therein proper measures to give all foreign nations, in matters of foreign commerce, an entire and perfect confidence in the probity, punctuality, and good order of our government. You may be assured that whatever depends upon me shall be executed with a steadiness which can alone preserve that part of my dominions, or the commerce which arises from it.

It is the fixed object of my heart to make the general good, and the true spirit of the constitution, the invariable rule of my conduct, and on all occasions to advance and reward merit in every profession.

To insure the full advantage of a government conducted on such principles depends on your temper, your wisdom, your disinterestedness, collectively and individually.

My people expect these qualifications of you; and I call for them.

Address of the House of Lords to his Majesty, Dec. 6, 1782.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Lords spiritual and temporal, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to return your Majesty our humble thanks for your most gracious speech from the throne.

It is with the sincerest gratitude we acknowledge the sacrifice which your Majesty has been graciously and affectionately pleased to make to the wishes and opinions of your people, fully convinced that your Majesty's own conduct has always been actuated by a similar disposition; we acknowledge, likewise, your Majesty's constant care and attention to the true interests of your people and the critical state of public affairs, since the last session of Parliament; and in a particular manner for your Majesty having been graciously pleased to direct your measures towards promoting a cordial reconciliation between Great Britain and America.

Per-

Permit us, Sir, to express our great satisfaction that your Majesty, in the exercise of the powers which were vested in you, has laid the foundation of a peace with that country, and that you have actually agreed upon articles to take effect when the terms with the Court of France shall be finally settled, thereby affording to your people a reasonable expectation of being delivered from the burthens of a most expensive war, as well as to unite our hopes with your Majesty's, that religion, language, interests, and affection, may yet be the means of effecting a permanent union between the two countries; to obtain which purpose, so highly laudable, our earnest endeavours shall not be wanting.

Your Majesty may be assured we are sensible of the important advantages resulting from the successful exertions of your Majesty's fleets, owing to the skill and bravery of your officers, and those serving under them, in protecting your distant colonies and settlements, as well as the great branches of our trade; and that we are impressed with a due sense of what is owing to the spirit and good conduct of your Majesty's governor and garrison of Gibraltar.

We set a just value on the continuance of our domestic tranquillity, and shall always reflect with peculiar satisfaction on the signal instances of public spirit called forth by the occasion.

We learn, with great joy, that a considerable progress is made in the negotiations for a general peace, at a moment so suitable to your Majesty's dignity; and we cannot omit to acknowledge the paternal regard your Majesty has shown for the lives and fortunes of your brave and gallant subjects.

We return your Majesty our hearty thanks for your gracious promise to communicate to us the terms with the several belligerent powers as soon as they are concluded; and we give your Majesty the strongest assurances, that if any unforeseen change in the dispositions of those powers should disappoint your Majesty's confident expectations of peace, we will most cheerfully exert our utmost endeavours to assist your Majesty in a vigorous prosecution of the war.

We will not omit, on our parts, to apply ourselves, with the most unremitting attention, to the several important points which your Majesty has been pleased to mention, and to consider of the most effectual means for remedying the evils which may be apprehended from the present scarcity of corn; and for preventing, as far as possible, the crimes of theft and robbery, which have lately prevailed to a very alarming height.

We beg leave to express our satisfaction at the measures which have been adopted with respect to Ireland, for securing its rights and commerce, which, we trust, will have the effect of ensuring that harmony which ought always to subsist between the two kingdoms; and we do assure your Majesty we shall be ready to direct our attention to a revision of our whole trading system, guided by the same liberal principles which your Majesty has been graciously pleased to commend.

We are deeply impressed with a sense of the important subject which the state of our national concerns in the East Indies offers for our most serious deliberation; and your Majesty may be persuaded, we have a due impression of your royal goodness, in thus extending your anxious regard to the good government of the distant territories in Asia, and to the welfare and happiness of the people there: we will, in return, show ourselves zealous to answer your Majesty's gracious expectations, by assisting to frame some fundamental laws which may make their connection with Great Britain a blessing to India, and may give to other nations, in matters of foreign commerce, an entire confidence in the probity, justice, and good order of the British government.

Allow us to express, in the most fervent and grateful manner, our warmest gratitude for your Majesty's gracious assurances that you will make the general good, and the true spirit of the constitution, the invariable rule of your Majesty's conduct, and that you will, on all occasions, advance and reward merit in every profession.

Your Majesty may rely, with the utmost confidence, that every measure will be adopted on our part to secure the full advantages of a government conducted on such principles.

His Majesty's most gracious Answer.

My Lords,

THIS very affectionate and loyal address affords me the highest satisfaction.

Your approbation of the foundation I have laid for a peace between Great Britain and America, and of the measures I have taken towards a general pacification, as well as the earnest zeal which you have so unanimously expressed for carrying on the war with vigour, if the negotiations should unexpectedly break off, must be attended with the best effects, both at home and abroad.

Your

Your affectionate acknowledgment of my constant disposition to make my own conduct conformable to the wishes and opinions of my people, touches me most sensibly.

Upon that principle, I can never regret the sacrifice I make of every consideration of my own.

I accept, with pleasure, your assurances of support to a government conducted on principles equally agreeable to my own honour and the public good.

Address of the House of Commons to his Majesty, Dec. 7, 1782.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons of Great Britain, in Parliament assembled, return your Majesty the thanks of this House for your most gracious speech from the throne.

We beg leave to acknowledge, with sincere and hearty thanks, your Majesty's royal care and attention to the important and critical state of public affairs since the last session, and particularly for having been graciously pleased to direct your measures to promote a cordial reconciliation between Great Britain and America.

Permit us to express to your Majesty our satisfaction that your Majesty, in the exercise of the powers which were vested in your Majesty, has laid the foundation of a peace with that country, and has actually agreed upon articles to be concluded whenever terms are finally settled with the Court of France. We most ardently wish that religion, language, interests, and affection, may yet prove the bond of permanent union between the two countries.

We are impressed with a due sense of the advantages resulting from the safety of the great branches of our trade, and of the happy success which we owe to the spirit of your Majesty's governor and garrison of Gibraltar, and to the skill and bravery of your Majesty's fleet: and we reflect, with peculiar pleasure, on the uninterrupted continuance of our domestic tranquillity, and the signal instances of public spirit which the situation of the country has called forth.

We rejoice to learn that advances have been made towards a general pacification, at a moment so suitable to your Majesty's dignity and to your gracious and parental regard to the lives of your Majesty's brave and gallant subjects.

We desire to thank your Majesty for having promised to acquaint us, as soon as the terms are concluded; and to assure your Majesty of our resolution to take every measure to second
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the most vigorous efforts in the further prosecution of the war; if any unforeseen change in the dispositions of the belligerent powers should frustrate your Majesty's confident expectations of peace.

We are anxious to offer the warmest return of gratitude to your Majesty for your gracious disposition to diminish the burthens of your people, and to assure your Majesty that your faithful Commons will, as they ought, most zealously co-operate in such measures as may be necessary to give stability to regulations for that purpose. We will cheerfully provide for the deficiency of the sum granted last year for the discharge of the debt on your Majesty's civil list.

We will apply ourselves, with the most serious attention, to the many important points which your Majesty is pleased to recommend to our consideration: we will do every thing in our power to remedy the evils which may be apprehended from the general scarcity of corn, to put a stop to the alarming excess of theft and robbery, and the causes from which those crimes originate; and to lay the foundation of a gradual redemption of the public debt, by a fixed course of payment.

We recollect, with great satisfaction, those liberal measures adopted with regard to the rights and commerce of Ireland, which will, we trust, insure the harmony which ought always to subsist between the two kingdoms. And we shall be ready to consider of such a general revision of our trading system as may, in the present circumstances, be wise and expedient.

We are truly sensible of the necessity of framing such regulations as are adapted to the situation of affairs in the East Indies: and we beg leave to assure your Majesty, that it will be our great object, in all our deliberations, to manifest that temper and those principles which your Majesty is pleased to inculcate, and which are required of us by the duty we owe to your Majesty, to our constituents, and to ourselves.

His Majesty's most gracious Answer.

Gentlemen,

I RETURN you thanks for this loyal and dutiful address. I am happy to receive your assurances of satisfaction, on being acquainted that articles have been agreed upon with America, to take effect whenever terms of peace shall be finally settled with the Court of France; and that, while you rejoice to learn that advances have been made towards a general pacification, you are, at the same time, resolved to second the

the most vigorous efforts in the further prosecution of the war, if any unforeseen change in the disposition of the belligerent powers should frustrate my confident expectations of peace.

Resolved by the House of Lords, Feb. 17, 1783,

THAT an humble address be presented to his Majesty, to return his Majesty the thanks of this House for his gracious condescension in ordering to be laid before us the preliminary articles of the different treaties which his Majesty hath concluded, and to assure his Majesty that we have considered them with that attention which so important a subject requires.

To express in the most grateful manner to his Majesty our satisfaction that his Majesty has, in consequence of the powers entrusted to him, laid the foundation by the provisional articles with the States of North America, for a treaty of peace, which, we trust, will insure perfect reconciliation and friendship between both countries.

That, in this confidence, we presume to express to his Majesty our just expectation, that the several States of North America will carry into effectual and satisfactory execution those measures which the Congress is so solemnly bound by the treaty, to recommend in favour of such persons as have suffered for the part which they have taken in the war, and that we consider these circumstances as the surest indication of returning friendship; and to acknowledge to his Majesty our due sense of that wise and paternal regard for the happiness of his subjects, which induced his Majesty to relieve them from that burdensome and expensive war by the preliminary articles of peace concluded between his Majesty and the Most Christian and Catholic Kings.

To assure his Majesty that we shall encourage and promote every exertion of his subjects of Great Britain and Ireland, in the cultivation and improvement of those resources which must tend to the certain augmentation of our public strength, and that with these views we shall most diligently turn our attention to the revision of all our commercial laws, and endeavour to frame them upon such liberal principles as may best extend our trade and navigation, and proportionably increase his Majesty's naval power, which can alone insure the prosperity of his kingdoms.

His Majesty's most gracious Answer, Feb. 18, 1783.

My Lords,

I RECEIVE with pleasure this dutiful address, and have great satisfaction in observing that the preliminary and provisional articles appear to you, as they do to me, to afford a reasonable prospect of such a peace, as will relieve my people from any burdens beyond what the expences of the war have rendered unavoidable, and, if properly improved, will insure the national prosperity. These are always objects next my heart, and every measure which has the tendency to promote them cannot but be acceptable to me. It is my firm purpose to execute every article of the treaties, on my part, with that good faith which has ever distinguished the conduct of this nation.

I concur with you most entirely on the just expectation you entertain of the like attention in North America to the stipulations in favour of the unfortunate sufferers by the war; which are founded in humanity and justice, and now recognised by public engagement. I do not entertain a doubt, that this and every other article in the treaties depending will be finally settled and performed by the other powers with that spirit of liberality and justice which becomes them.

Resolved by the House of Commons, Feb. 17, 1783,

THAT an humble address be presented to his Majesty, to return his Majesty our most humble thanks, for having been graciously pleased to lay before us the articles of the different treaties which his Majesty has concluded; and to assure his Majesty, that his faithful Commons will proceed to consider the same with that serious and full attention which a subject of such importance to the present and future interests of his Majesty's dominions deserves: that, in the mean time, they entertain the fullest confidence in his Majesty's paternal care, that he will concert with his Parliament such measures as may be expedient for extending the commerce of his Majesty's subjects: and his Majesty's faithful Commons feel that it would be superfluous to express to his Majesty the regards due from this nation to every description of men, who with the risk of their lives, and the sacrifice of their properties, have distinguished their loyalty and fidelity during a long and calamitous war.

That

That whatever may be the sentiments of his faithful Commons on the result of their investigation of the terms of pacification, they beg leave to assure his Majesty of their firm and unalterable resolution to adhere inviolably to the several articles for which the public faith is pledged, and to maintain the blessings of peace, so necessary to his Majesty's subjects, and the general happiness of mankind.

Resolved by the House of Commons, March 6, 1783,

THAT an humble address be presented to his Majesty, most humbly to represent to his Majesty, that whereas his Majesty has, from his paternal regard to the welfare of his people, and his desire to avoid imposing any new burden upon the public, been graciously pleased to suppress the several offices mentioned in his Majesty's message to this House in the last session of Parliament, and has likewise given his royal assent to an act for carrying the said most gracious design into full execution; and for regulating the granting of pensions and preventing all abuses or excess therein: this House trusts, that the same restrictions will be observed in respect to any pension his Majesty may be advised to order to be granted, antecedent to the fifth day of April, as by the said act are thenceforth strictly and absolutely prescribed.

Resolved by the House of Commons, March 24, 1783

THAT an humble address be presented to his Majesty, that his Majesty will be graciously pleased to take into his serious consideration the very distracted and unsettled state of the empire, after a long and exhausting war; and that his Majesty would therefore condescend to a compliance with the wishes of this House, by forming an administration entitled to the confidence of his people, and such as may have a tendency to put an end to the unfortunate divisions and distractions of the country.

His Majesty's most gracious Answer.

THAT it was his earnest desire to do every thing in his power to comply with the wishes expressed by his faithful Commons.

Resolved

Resolved by the House of Commons, June 6, 1783,

THAT an humble address be presented to his Majesty, to acquaint his Majesty that this House, in consequence of his Majesty's most gracious speech from the throne, has bestowed constant attention to the scarcity and high price of corn, and that, notwithstanding the several salutary laws already made in the present session of Parliament for the relief of the poor, the effects of the scarcity and high price of corn are still severely felt by many of his Majesty's loyal subjects; that it appears, from evidence brought before this House, that the inhabitants of the Highlands, and northern parts of Scotland in particular, have suffered most severely from the lateness of the last harvest, whereby their corn while green was covered with straw, and in many places was not gathered in till the month of December, and then in very bad condition, that the crop of potatoes, on which the said inhabitants principally depend for support, was also destroyed by the frost; and that many of the said inhabitants, being thereby reduced to indigence, will either be constrained to migrate, or exposed to the danger of perishing for want of food, unless timely measures be devised for their relief, that the distresses occasioned by famine being generally most extreme in the summer months immediately preceding the new harvest, when this House may not be sitting, most humbly beseech his Majesty, that he will be graciously pleased to give such directions, as may tend most effectually to avert the evils that are to be apprehended from the above calamitous state of the northern parts of Scotland, and to assure his Majesty, that this House will make good, out of the first aids that shall be granted by Parliament, such expences as shall be incurred by his Majesty in relieving the misery to which his Majesty's unhappy subjects may be reduced by this most deplorable calamity.

Message from his Majesty to the House of Commons, June 23, 1783.

GEORGE REX.

HIS Majesty, reflecting on the propriety of a separate establishment for his dearly beloved son the Prince of Wales, recommends the consideration thereof to this House; relying on the experienced zeal and affection of his faithful Commons for such aid towards making that establishment, as shall appear consistent with a due attention to the circumstances of

his people, every addition to whose burdens his Majesty feels with the most sensible concern.

G. R.

Substance of Mr. Speaker's Speech to his Majesty, July 16, 1783.

THAT he had brought with him three bills, which were the last his Majesty's faithful Commons had voted in their committee of supply, and with which, with all humility, they desire his royal concurrence. He said, the Commons had granted the large and liberal supplies that had been asked with great cheerfulness, and in perfect confidence that his Majesty would direct them to be applied to the public service with that spirit of œconomy, by a due attention to which alone the affairs of the kingdom could be rendered prosperous at home and respectable abroad. He observed, that peace having been concluded, a great part of the public expences were necessarily ceased. His Majesty's faithful Commons, he said, had turned their attention, in the course of the session, to the affairs of the East Indies; and he trusted, that the progress they had made in the business promised, if the subject was resumed and attended to with the same zeal and assiduity next session, ultimately to produce essential and permanent advantages to both countries.

His Majesty's most gracious Speech, July 16, 1783.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

THE advanced season of the year requires some remission from your long and laborious attention to the public service. The exigencies of that service may oblige me to call you together again at an early period; and I persuade myself, from my uniform experience of your affection to me, and your zeal for the public good, that you will cheerfully submit to a temporary inconvenience for the permanent advantage of your country.

The consideration of the affairs of the East Indies will require to be resumed as early as possible, and to be pursued with a serious and unremitting attention.

I expected to have had the satisfaction of acquainting you, before the end of the session, that the terms of pacification were definitively settled, but the complicated state of the business in discussion has unavoidably protracted the negotiation. I have, however, every reason to believe, from the dispositions shewn by the several powers concerned, that they are perfectly well

well inclined to such a conclusion as may secure the blessings of peace, so much and so equally to be desired by all parties.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I thank you for the supplies you have so liberally granted for the public service; for facilitating my arrangements towards a separate establishment for the Prince of Wales; and for enabling me, without any new burden on my people, to discharge the debt which remained on my civil list.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I earnestly recommend to you an attention towards promoting among my people, in your several counties, that spirit of order, regularity, and industry, which is the true source of revenue and power in this nation, and without which all regulations for the improvement of the one, or the increase of the other, will have no effect.

The Earl of Mansfield, as Speaker of the House of Lords, then said :

My Lords and Gentlemen,

IT is his Majesty's royal will and pleasure, that this Parliament be prorogued to Tuesday, the 9th day of September next, to be then here holden; and this Parliament is accordingly prorogued to Tuesday, the 9th day of September next.

His Majesty's most gracious Speech, Nov. 11, 1783

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I HAVE the satisfaction to inform you, that definitive treaties of peace have been concluded with the Courts of France and Spain, and the United States of America. Preliminary articles have been also ratified with the States General of the United Provinces. I have ordered these several treaties to be laid before you; and am happy to add, that I have no cause to doubt but that all those powers agree with me in my sincere inclination to keep the calamities of war at a great distance.

The objects which are to be brought under your deliberation will sufficiently explain my reasons for calling you together after so short a recess. Inquiries of the utmost importance have been long and diligently pursued, and the fruit of them will be expected. The situation of the East India Company will require the utmost exertions of your wisdom, to maintain and

improve the valuable advantages derived from our Indian possessions, and to promote and secure the happiness of the native inhabitants of those provinces.

The season of peace will call upon you for an attention to every thing which can recruit the strength of the nation, after so long and so expensive a war. The security and increase of the revenue, in the manner least burdensome to my subjects, will be amongst your first objects. In many essential parts it has suffered; dangerous frauds have prevailed; and alarming outrages have been committed. Exertions have not been wanting to repress this daring spirit, nor pains to inquire into its true causes. In any instances in which the powers of government may not be equal to its utmost care and vigilance, I have no doubt that the wisdom of Parliament will provide such remedies as may be found wanting for the accomplishment of purposes in which the material interests of this nation are so deeply concerned.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I have ordered the estimates of the expences of the year to be laid before you. From those you will perceive the reduction which I have made in all the establishments, which appear to me to be brought as low as prudence will admit; and you will participate with me in the satisfaction which I feel in this step towards the relief of my subjects. At the end of a war some part of its weight must inevitably be borne for a time. I feel for the burdens of my people; but I rely on that fortitude which has hitherto supported this nation under many difficulties, for their bearing those which the present exigencies require, and which are so necessary for the full support of national credit.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

In many respects our situation is new. Your councils will provide what is called for by that situation; and your wisdom will give permanence to whatever has been found beneficial by the experience of ages. In your deliberations you will preserve that temper and moderation which the importance of their objects demands, and will, I have no doubt, produce; and I am sure that you are unanimous in your desire to direct all those deliberations to the honour of my crown, the safety of my dominions, and the prosperity of my people.

Address by the House of Lords to his Majesty, Nov. 12, 1783.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Lords spiritual and temporal, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to return your Majesty our most humble thanks for your most gracious speech from the throne.

With the most respectful affection to your royal person and family, we beg leave to offer our sincere congratulations on the birth of another princess, and happy recovery of the Queen. Truly sensible of the blessings we enjoy under your Majesty's most auspicious government, we rejoice at every event that can add to your Majesty's domestic happiness.

We congratulate your Majesty on the success of your endeavours to restore the public tranquillity. We return your Majesty our most humble thanks for having ordered the definitive treaties with the Courts of France and Spain, and with the United States of America, and the preliminary articles ratified with the States General of the United Provinces, to be laid before us; and we assure your Majesty, that we learn with the greatest satisfaction, that all those powers agree with your Majesty in your sincere inclinations to keep the calamities of war at a great distance.

We humbly and thankfully acknowledge your Majesty's royal regard to the general welfare of your Majesty's dominions, in having called your Parliament together at this early season; and we beg leave to assure your Majesty that the most diligent attention shall be given by us to those objects which wait our deliberation.—The situation of the East India Company will require our immediate consideration; and we beg your Majesty to be assured that we will use our utmost endeavours to maintain and improve the valuable advantages derived from our Indian possessions, and to secure the happiness of the native inhabitants of those provinces.

Animated by your Majesty's example, and by the love of our country, we shall take the earliest advantage of the season of peace, to direct our councils to every thing that can recruit the strength of the nation after so long and so expensive a war; and while we express the grateful sense we entertain of your Majesty's paternal care, in recommending the security and increase of the revenue in the manner the least burdensome to your people, we shall be happy to co-operate in whatever may be found expedient for those salutary purposes, or may tend to counteract those frauds, and to repress that spirit of outrage, which have been so alarmingly prevalent.

We humbly intreat your Majesty to be persuaded that our utmost assiduity shall be employed in providing what is called for by the present situation of this country ; and that in our labours for that purpose, we shall not only use the utmost caution in regard to whatever the experience of past times has shown to be beneficial, but shall endeavour, to the extent of our abilities, to make all such benefits permanent.

It will be our duty to preserve that temper and moderation in our deliberations which your Majesty has been pleased to recommend, and which the importance of their objects will demand ; and we shall be anxious not to neglect any opportunity of meriting the good opinion your Majesty has graciously expressed of our unanimous desire to secure and promote the honour of your Majesty's crown, the safety of your dominions, and the prosperity of your people.

His Majesty's most gracious Answer.

My Lords,

I THANK you for this dutiful and loyal address. I receive with pleasure your congratulations on the birth of a princess, and the recovery of the Queen, as renewed proofs of your affection to my person and family. The assurances you give me of your attention to the objects recommended for the welfare of my subject, are highly acceptable ; and I regard the unanimity with which they are offered, as an earnest of the success which, I trust, will attend your endeavours to establish the honour of my crown, and the prosperity of my people.

Address of the House of Commons to his Majesty, Nov. 13, 1783.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons of Great Britain in Parliament assembled, beg leave to return your Majesty our humble thanks for your Majesty's most gracious speech from the throne.

Affectionately and dutifully interested in whatever concerns your Majesty's domestic happiness, we beg leave to offer our most sincere congratulations on the birth of another princess, and to express our unfeigned joy at the happy recovery of the Queen.

We are gratefully sensible of the paternal regard for the welfare of your people, which has induced your Majesty to conclude

clude definitive treaties of peace with the Courts of France and Spain, and the United States of America, and to ratify preliminary articles with the States General of the United Provinces; and we beg your Majesty to accept our most humble thanks for having graciously ordered those several treaties to be laid before us. We have great satisfaction in learning that your Majesty has no cause to doubt but that all those powers agree in sincere inclination with your Majesty to keep the calamities of war at a great distance.

We entertain a just sense of the importance of the objects which demand our attention; and we acknowledge, with thanks, the anxious solicitude for the public good which has induced your Majesty to give us, thus early, an opportunity of taking them into consideration. Your faithful Commons are sensible that the fruits of those inquiries, which they have so long pursued, are now justly expected, and that the situation of the East India Company claims our utmost exertions to provide, in the most effectual manner, for the maintenance and improvement of the valuable advantages derived from our Indian possessions, and to promote and secure the happiness of the native inhabitants of those provinces.

The season of peace will call for our attention to every thing which can recruit the strength of the nation, after so long and so expensive a war.

We acknowledge your Majesty's paternal goodness in recommending such means of increasing and securing the public revenue, as may be least burdensome to your subjects. The frauds which have prevailed in many of its most essential parts, as well as the outrages which have been committed, are truly alarming; and we have the fullest confidence that no exertions have been wanting to repress this daring spirit, nor pains to inquire into its true causes. In those instances in which the powers of government may not be found equal to its utmost care and vigilance, we shall use our utmost endeavours to provide such remedies as may apply to this evil, and such means as may be found wanting to the accomplishment of purposes in which our material interests are so deeply concerned.

We beg leave to assure your Majesty, that your faithful Commons will cheerfully grant your Majesty such supplies as may be found necessary for the service of the year; acknowledging, with the utmost gratitude, your Majesty's immediate attention to the relief of your subjects, in the reduction of all the establishments to as low a state as your Majesty, in your royal wisdom, thought prudence would admit. We take a sincere part in the satisfaction which your Majesty feels in this step towards the relief of your subjects; and we have no doubt

that your people will justify your Majesty's gracious reliance on the fortitude of this nation, by willingly bearing those burdens, which are the inevitable consequences of the war, which the present exigencies require, and which are so necessary for the full support of the national credit.

We feel that our situation is, in many respects, new ; and we beg your Majesty to be assured, that we shall use our utmost diligence to provide what is called for by that situation ; at the same time, to the extent of our power, giving permanence to whatever has been found beneficial by the experience of ages.

The objects of our deliberations fully demand that temper and moderation which your Majesty so graciously recommends ; and we entreat your Majesty to accept our most humble thanks for the confidence your Majesty has been pleased to express in our unanimous desire to direct all those deliberations to the honour of your Majesty's crown, the safety of your dominions, and the prosperity of your people ; and we assure your Majesty, that we will use our best and utmost endeavours to demonstrate by our conduct, that a confidence so honourable to us has been well founded.

His Majesty's most gracious Answer.

Gentlemen,

I THANK you for this very dutiful and affectionate address, and for the fresh mark you give of your attachment to me and my family, in your congratulations on the happy recovery of the Queen, and the birth of another prince.

I receive, with the utmost satisfaction, your assurances of promoting such measures as may tend to the support of the national credit, and to the welfare of my people ; and I consider the unanimity with which they are offered as a happy earnest of the success of your endeavours.

Address by the House of Commons to his Majesty, Oct. 22, 1783.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons of Great Britain, in Parliament assembled, think ourselves bound in duty humbly to represent to your Majesty, that alarming reports of an intended dissolution of Parliament have gone forth.

Your Majesty's faithful Commons, dutifully acknowledging the wisdom of the constitution, in trusting to the crown that

just and legal prerogative, and fully confiding in your Majesty's royal wisdom and paternal care of your people, for the most beneficial exercise of it, desire, with great humility, to represent to your Majesty the inconveniences and dangers which appear to them, from a consideration of the state of the nation, likely to follow from the prorogation or dissolution of the Parliament, in the present arduous and critical conjuncture of affairs. The maintenance of the public credit, and the support of the revenue, demand the most immediate attention. The disorders prevailing in the government of the East Indies, at home and abroad, call aloud for instant reformation; and the state of the East India Company's finances, from the pressing demands upon them, require a no less immediate support and assistance from Parliament.

Your Majesty's faithful Commons are at present proceeding with the utmost diligence upon these great objects of government, as recommended to their attention by your Majesty's gracious speech from the throne, but which must necessarily be frustrated and disappointed by the delay attending a dissolution, and most especially the affairs of the East Indies, by the assembling of a new Parliament, not prepared by previous inquiry to enter with equal effect upon an object involving long and intricate details, which your Majesty's faithful Commons have investigated for two years past with the most laborious, earnest, and unremitting attention.

Your Majesty's faithful Commons, deeply affected by these important considerations, impressed with the highest reverence and affection for your Majesty's person and government, and anxious to preserve the lustre and safety of your government, do humbly beseech your Majesty to suffer your faithful Commons to proceed on the business of the session, the furtherance of which is so essentially necessary to the prosperity of the public; and that your Majesty will be graciously pleased to hearken to the advice of your faithful Commons, and not to the secret advice of particular persons who may have private interests of their own, separate from the true interest of your Majesty and your people.

His Majesty's most gracious Answer.

Gentlemen,

IT has been my constant object to employ the authority entrusted to me by the constitution, to its true and only end, the good of my people: and I am always happy in concurring with the wishes and opinions of my faithful Commons. I agree

agree with you in thinking that the support of the public credit and revenue must demand your most earnest and vigilant care. The state of the East Indies is also an object of as much delicacy and importance as can exercise the wisdom and justice of Parliament. I trust you will proceed in these considerations with all convenient speed, after such an adjournment as the present circumstances may seem to require; and I assure you that I shall not interrupt your meeting, by any exercise of my prerogative, either of prorogation or dissolution.

Resolved by the House of Commons, Dec. 24, 1783,

THAT an humble address be presented to his Majesty, that he will be most graciously pleased not to grant the office of Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, for any other term than during pleasure, before the 20th day of January next.

To which his Majesty was pleased to make the following most gracious Answer :

THAT he will comply with the wishes of his faithful Commons.

Resolved by the House of Commons, Feb. 3, 1784,

THAT it is the opinion of this House, that the present arduous and critical situation of public affairs requires the exertions of a firm, efficient, extended, united administration, entitled to the confidence of the people, and such as may have a tendency to put an end to the unfortunate divisions and distractions of this country.

That it is the opinion of this House, that the continuance of the present ministers in their offices, is an obstacle to the formation of such an administration as may enjoy the confidence of this House, and tend to put an end to the unfortunate divisions and distractions of the country.

It was then resolved, That the said resolutions be humbly laid before his Majesty.

Joint Address by both Houses to the King, Feb. 6, 1784.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Lords spiritual and temporal, and Commons, in Parliament assembled, acknowledge, with great satisfaction, the wisdom of our happy constitution, which places in your Majesty's hand the undoubted authority of appointing to all the great offices of executive government. We have the firmest reliance in your Majesty's known wisdom and paternal goodness, that you will always be anxious to call into, and continue in your service, men the most deserving of the confidence of your Parliament, and the public in general.

In this confidence, we beg leave to approach your Majesty with our most earnest assurances, that we will upon all occasions support your Majesty in the just exercise of those prerogatives which the wisdom of the law has entrusted to your Majesty, for the preservation of our lives and properties, and upon the due and uninterrupted exercise of which must depend the blessings which your people derive from the best of all forms of government.

His Majesty's most gracious Answer.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I THANK you for this dutiful and loyal address, and I desire you will rest assured that I have no object in the choice of ministers, but to call into my service men the most deserving of the confidence of my Parliament, and of the public in general. I cannot too often repeat my assurances, that my constant study in the exercise of every prerogative entrusted to me by the constitution, is to employ it for the welfare of my people.

Address by the House of Commons to his Majesty, Feb. 20, 1784.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most faithful Commons, impressed with the most dutiful sense of your Majesty's paternal regard for the welfare of your people, approach your throne, to express our reliance on your Majesty's paternal wisdom; that your Majesty will take such measures, by removing any obstacles to forming such an administration as the House has declared to be requisite in the present critical and arduous situation of affairs;
it

it may tend to give effect to the wishes of your faithful Commons, which have already been most humbly represented to your Majesty.

His Majesty's most gracious Answer, Feb. 27, 1784.

Gentlemen,

I AM deeply sensible how highly it concerns the honour of my crown, and the welfare of my people, which is the object always nearest my heart, that the public affairs should be conducted by a firm, efficient, united, and extended administration, entitled to the confidence of my people, and such as may have a tendency to put an end to the unhappy divisions and distractions in this country. Very recent endeavours have already been employed on my part to unite in the public service, on a fair and equal footing, those whose joint efforts appear to me most capable of producing that happy effect: these endeavours have not had the success I wished. I shall be always desirous of taking every step most conducive to such an object; but I cannot see that it would in any degree be advanced by the dismissal of those at present in my service.

I observe at the same time that there is no charge or complaint suggested against my present ministers, nor is any one or more of them specifically objected to; and numbers of my subjects have expressed to me in the warmest manner their satisfaction in the late changes I have made in my councils. Under these circumstances I trust my faithful Commons will not wish that the essential offices of executive government should be vacated until I see a prospect that such a plan of union as I have called for, and they have pointed out, may be carried into effect.

Address of the House of Commons to his Majesty, March 1, 1784.

WE, your Majesty's faithful Commons, approach your throne, most humbly to represent to your Majesty the satisfaction your faithful Commons derive from the late most gracious assurances we have received, that your Majesty concurs with us in opinion, that it concerns the honour of your crown, and the welfare of your people, that the public affairs should be conducted by a firm, efficient, extended, united administration, entitled to the confidence of your people, and such as may have a tendency to put an end to the unhappy divisions and distractions of this country.

We

We acknowledge your Majesty's paternal goodness in your late most gracious endeavours to give effect to the object of our late dutiful representation to your Majesty.

We lament that the failure of these your Majesty's most gracious endeavours should be considered as a final bar to the accomplishing so salutary and desirable a purpose, and to express our concern and disappointment, that your Majesty has not been advised to take any further step towards uniting in the public service those whose joint efforts have recently appeared to your Majesty most capable of producing so happy an effect.

Your faithful Commons with all humility claim it as their right, and on every proper occasion feel it to be their bounden duty, to advise your Majesty touching the exercise of any branch of your royal prerogative.

We submit it to your Majesty's royal consideration that the continuance of an administration which does not possess the confidence of the representatives of the people must be injurious to the public service.

We beg leave further to say, that your faithful Commons can have no interest distinct and separate from that of our constituents, and that we, therefore, feel ourselves called upon to repeat those loyal and dutiful assurances we have already expressed of our reliance on your Majesty's paternal regard for the welfare of your people, that your Majesty would graciously enable us to execute those important trusts which the constitution has vested in us, with honour to ourselves and advantage to the public, by the formation of a new administration, appointed under circumstances which may tend to conciliate the minds of your faithful Commons, and give energy and stability to your Majesty's councils.

Your Majesty's faithful Commons, upon the maturest deliberation, cannot but consider the continuance of the present ministers as an unsurmountable obstacle to your Majesty's most gracious purpose, to comply with our wishes in the formation of such an administration as your Majesty, in concurrence with the unanimous resolution of your faithful Commons, seems to think requisite in the present exigencies of the country. We feel ourselves bound to remain firm in the wish expressed to your Majesty in our late humble address, and do therefore find ourselves obliged again to beseech your Majesty, that you would be graciously pleased to lay the foundation of a strong and stable government by the previous removal of your present ministers.

His Majesty's most gracious Answer, March 4, 1784.

Gentlemen,

I HAVE already expressed to you how sensible I am of the advantages to be derived from such an administration as was pointed out in your unanimous resolution ; and I assured you that I was desirous of taking every step most conducive to such an object—I remain in the same sentiments—but I continue equally convinced, that it is an object not likely to be attained by the dismissal of my present ministers.

I must repeat that no charge or complaint, nor any specific objection, is yet made against any of them. If there were any such ground for their removal at present, it ought to be equally a reason for not admitting them as a part of that extended and united administration which you state to be requisite.

I did not consider the failure of my recent endeavours as a final bar to the accomplishment of the purpose which I had in view, if it could have been attained on those principles of fairness and equality, without which it can neither be honourable to those who are concerned, nor lay the foundation of such a strong and stable government as may be of lasting advantage to the country. But I know of no further steps which I can take that are likely to remove the difficulties which obstruct that desirable end.

I have never called in question the right of my faithful Commons to offer me their advice on every proper occasion, touching the exercise of any branch of my prerogative : I shall be ready at all times to receive it, and give it the most attentive consideration ; they will ever find me disposed to shew my regard to the true principles of the constitution, and to take such measures as may best conduce to the satisfaction and prosperity of my people.

Representation of the House of Commons to his Majesty, March 8, 1784.

RESOLVED, That an humble representation be presented to his Majesty, most humbly to testify the surprise and affliction of this House, on receiving the answer which his Majesty's ministers have advised to the dutiful and seasonable address of this House, concerning one of the most important acts of his Majesty's government.

To

To express our concern, that when his Majesty's paternal goodness has graciously inclined his Majesty to be sensible of the advantages to be derived from such an administration as was pointed out in our resolution, his Majesty should still be induced to prefer the opinions of individuals to the repeated advice of the representatives of his people, in Parliament assembled, with respect to the means of obtaining so desirable an end.

To represent to his Majesty, that a preference of this nature is as injurious to the true interests of the crown, as it is wholly repugnant to the spirit of our free constitution: that systems founded on such a preference are not, in truth, entirely new in this country: that they have been the characteristic features of those unfortunate reigns, the maxims of which are now justly and universally exploded; while his Majesty and his royal progenitors have been fixed in the hearts of their people, and have commanded the respect and admiration of all the nations of the earth, by a constant and uniform attention to the advice of their Commons, however adverse such advice may have been to the opinions of the executive servants of the crown.

To assure his Majesty that we neither have disputed, nor mean in any instance to dispute, much less to deny his Majesty's undoubted prerogative of appointing to the executive offices of state such person as to his Majesty's wisdom shall seem meet; but at the same time that we must, with all humility, again submit to his Majesty's royal wisdom, that no administration, however legally appointed, can serve his Majesty and the public with effect, which does not enjoy the confidence of this House: that in his Majesty's present administration we cannot confide; the circumstances under which it was constituted, and the ground upon which it continues, have created just suspicions in the breasts of his faithful Commons, that principles are adopted, and views entertained, unfriendly to the privileges of this House, and to the freedom of our excellent constitution: that we have made no charge against any of them, because it is their removal, and not their punishment, which we have desired; and that we humbly conceive we are warranted, by the ancient usage of this House, to desire such removal without making any charge whatever: that confidence may be very prudently withheld, where no criminal process can be properly instituted: that although we have made no criminal charge against any individual of his Majesty's ministers, yet, with all humility, we do conceive that we have stated to his Majesty very distinct objections, and very forcible reasons against their continuance: that with regard to the propriety

priety of admitting either the present ministers, or any other persons, as a part of that extended and united administration which his Majesty, in concurrence with the sentiments of this House, considers as requisite, it is a point upon which we are too well acquainted with the bounds of our duty to presume to offer any advice to his Majesty, well knowing it to be the undoubted prerogative of his Majesty to appoint his ministers without any previous advice from either House of Parliament, and our duty humbly to offer to his Majesty our advice, when such appointments shall appear to us to be prejudicial to the public service.

To acknowledge with gratitude his Majesty's goodness, in not considering the failure of his recent endeavours as a final bar to the accomplishment of the gracious purpose which his Majesty has in view ; and to express the great concern and mortification with which we find ourselves obliged to declare, that the consolation which we should naturally have derived from his Majesty's most gracious disposition is considerably abated, by understanding that his Majesty's advisers have not thought fit to suggest to his Majesty any further steps to remove the difficulties which obstruct so desirable an end.

To recall to his Majesty's recollection that his faithful Commons have already submitted to his Majesty most humbly but most distinctly their opinion upon this subject ; that they can have no interests but those of his Majesty and of their constituents ; whereas it is needless to suggest to his Majesty's wisdom and discernment, that individual advisers may be actuated by very different motives.

To express our most unfeigned gratitude for his Majesty's royal assurances, that he does not call in question the right of this House to offer their advice to his Majesty on every proper occasion, touching the exercise of any branch of his royal prerogative, and of his Majesty's readiness at all times to receive such advice, and to give it the most attentive consideration.

To declare that we recognise in these gracious expressions those excellent and constitutional sentiments which we have ever been accustomed to hear from the throne, since the glorious æra of the Revolution, and which have peculiarly characterised his Majesty and the princes of his illustrious house ; but to lament that these most gracious expressions, while they inspire us with additional affection and gratitude towards his Majesty's royal person, do not a little contribute to increase our suspicions of those men who have advised his Majesty, in direct contradiction to these assurances, to neglect the advice of his Commons, and to retain in his service an administration,
whose

whose continuance in office we have so repeatedly and so distinctly condemned.

To represent to his Majesty, that it has anciently been the practice of this House to withhold supplies until grievances were redressed; and that, if we were to follow this course in the present conjuncture, we should be warranted in our proceeding, as well by the most approved precedents, as by the spirit of the constitution itself; but if, in consideration of the very peculiar exigencies of the times, we should be induced to wave for the present the exercise, in this instance, of our undoubted legal and constitutional mode of obtaining redress, that we humbly implore his Majesty not to impute our forbearance to any want of sincerity in our complaint, or distrust in the justice of our cause.

That we know, and are sure, that the prosperity of his Majesty's dominions in former times has been, under divine Providence, owing to the harmony which has for near a century prevailed uninterruptedly between the crown and this House: that we are convinced that there is no way to extricate this country from its present difficulties, but by pursuing the same system to which we have been indebted, at various periods of our history, for our successes abroad, and which is at all times so necessary for our tranquillity at home: that we feel the continuance of the present administration to be an innovation upon that happy system; that we cannot but expect from their existence under the displeasure of this House every misfortune naturally incident to a weak and distracted government; that if we had concealed from his Majesty our honest sentiments upon this important crisis, we should have been in some degree responsible for the mischiefs which are but too certain to ensue.

That we have done our duty to his Majesty and our constituents in pointing out the evil, and in humbly imploring redress; that the blame and responsibility must now lie wholly upon those who have presumed to advise his Majesty to act in contradiction to the uniform maxims which have hitherto governed the conduct of his Majesty, as well as every other prince of his illustrious house, upon those who have disgraced the opinions, and neglected the admonitions of the representatives of his people, and who have thereby attempted to set up a new system of executive administration, which, wanting the confidence of this House, and acting in defiance to our resolutions, must prove at once inadequate, by its inefficiency to the necessary objects of government, and dangerous by its examples to the liberties of the people.

His Majesty's most gracious Speech, March 24, 1784.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

ON a full consideration of the present situation of affairs, and of the extraordinary circumstances which have produced it, I am induced to put an end to this session of Parliament: I feel it a duty which I owe to the constitution and to the country in such a situation, to recur as speedily as possible to the sense of my people, by calling a new Parliament.

I trust that this measure will tend to obviate the mischiefs arising from the unhappy divisions and distractions which have lately subsisted; and that the various important objects which will require consideration may be afterwards proceeded upon with less interruption, and with happier effect.

I can have no other object but to preserve the true principles of our free and happy constitution, and to employ the powers entrusted to me by law for the only end for which they were given, the good of my people.

The Earl of Mansfield, as Speaker of the House of Lords, by his Majesty's command, then said:

My Lords and Gentlemen,

IT is his Majesty's royal will and pleasure that this Parliament be prorogued to Tuesday, the sixth day April next, to be then here holden, and this Parliament is accordingly prorogued to Tuesday, the sixth day of April next.

Speech of the Lord Chancellor to the House of Commons, May 18, 1784.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

HIS Majesty has been pleased to command me to acquaint you, that he will defer declaring the causes of calling this Parliament till there shall be a Speaker of the House of Commons. And therefore it is his Majesty's pleasure that you, gentlemen of the House of Commons, do immediately repair to the place where the Commons usually sit, and there choose a fit person to be your Speaker, and that you present such a person who shall be so chosen to his Majesty here, for his royal approbation, to-morrow at two o'clock.

Speech

Speech of the Speaker of the House of Commons, May 19, 1784.

IN consequence of a command from his Majesty which the Commons have received, to elect a Speaker, I am to inform his Majesty, that they have proceeded to the exercise of that ancient and undoubted right. I have the honour to be the object of their choice. On this occasion, however, I cannot refrain from expressing my apprehensions, that my abilities are by no means adequate to the discharge of that weighty and important trust which they have reposed in me. Under these circumstances I must entreat his Majesty, that he would give his command to his Commons to proceed to another election.

The Lord Chancellor then addressed the Speaker as follows :

IHAVE received the commands of his Majesty to express the confidence which he has in your experience, abilities, and integrity, and to notify his Majesty's approbation and command, that you should take upon you the high and important trust which his faithful Commons have placed in you.

The Speaker then replied,

THE best way I can take to return his Majesty my acknowledgments for the high honour he has done me, by his approbation and confidence, is by the most serious and strenuous exertions of such abilities as I possess, and the truest integrity of heart, in the discharge of the high employment with which I am invested. I must entreat for myself every indulgence for my failings, and that the most favourable construction may be put upon all my proceedings. I must likewise claim for the House of Commons, over which I am to preside, the assurance of the continuance of an exemption from arrest of its members, of a free access to his Majesty's person, and of all other their ancient and undoubted rights.

The Lord Chancellor then said,

HOWEVER small the need may be of his Majesty's favourable indulgence on account of your abilities, I am ordered to give you his Majesty's assurance of every favourable interpretation of your conduct. I am also authorised to assure you of his

Majesty's resolution to preserve all the ancient rights of the House of Commons inviolate, and among others those of freedom from arrest, of free access to his person, and of a favourable construction on the proceedings of the House.

His Majesty's most gracious Speech, May 19, 1784.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I HAVE the greatest satisfaction in meeting you in Parliament at this time, after recurring, in so important a moment, to the sense of my people. I have a just and confident reliance, that you are animated with the same sentiments of loyalty, and the same attachment to our excellent constitution, which I have had the happiness to see so fully manifested in every part of the kingdom. The happy effects of such a disposition will, I doubt not, appear in the temper and wisdom of your deliberations, and in the dispatch of the important objects of public business which demand your attention. It will afford me peculiar pleasure to find, that the exercise of the power entrusted to me by the constitution has been productive of consequences so beneficial to my subjects, whose interest and welfare are always nearest my heart.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I have ordered the estimates for the current year to be laid before you; and I trust to your zeal and affection to make such provisions for their further supply, and for the application of the sums granted in the last Parliament, as may appear to be necessary.

I sincerely lament every addition to the burdens of my people; but they will, I am persuaded, feel the necessity, after a long and expensive war, of effectually providing for the maintenance of the national faith and our public credit, so essential to the power and prosperity of the state.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

The alarming progress of frauds in the revenue, accompanied in so many instances with violence, will not fail on every account to excite your attention. I must, at the same time, recommend to your most serious consideration, to frame such commercial regulations as may appear immediately necessary in the present moment. The affairs of the East India Company form an object of deliberation deeply connected with the general interests of the country. While you feel a just anxiety to provide for the good government of our possessions

sions in that part of the world, you will, I trust, never lose sight of the effect which any measure to be adopted for that purpose may have on our own constitution, and our dearest interests at home. You will find me always desirous to concur with you in such measures as may be of lasting benefit to my people: I have no wish but to consult their prosperity, by a constant attention to every object of national concern, by an uniform adherence to the true principles of our free constitution, and by supporting and maintaining, in their just balance, the rights and privileges of every branch of the legislature.

Address by the House of Lords to his Majesty, May 19, 1784.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Lords spiritual and temporal, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to return your Majesty our humble thanks for your most gracious speech from the throne.

Deeply sensible of the blessings we enjoy under your Majesty's government, we desire to express our satisfaction and gratitude, that in the exercise of the powers vested in you by the constitution, your Majesty has been graciously pleased to recur to the sense of your people at a conjuncture when the situation of public affairs called loudly for that exertion.

Animated with the true sentiments of loyalty to your Majesty's person and government, of attachment to our excellent constitution, and of regard for the public welfare, your Majesty may safely rely, that we will enter upon the important objects of public business, which call for our attention, with temper and assiduity, and that we will prosecute them with all the dispatch of which their nature will admit.

In pursuit of those objects which your Majesty has been pleased to recommend to our consideration, we beg leave to assure your Majesty that we will apply ourselves with industry to the stopping the alarming progress of frauds in the revenue; and that we shall be ready to co-operate with the other branches of the legislature in framing such further commercial regulations as the present circumstances may require.

Convinced, as we are, how materially the situation of the affairs of the East India Company is connected with the general interests of the country, and that it forms a most important subject of deliberation, your Majesty may depend, that in applying our utmost attention to provide for the good government of our possessions in India, we shall well and anxiously

weigh the effect which the measures we may adopt may have upon the invaluable constitution of Great Britain.

We beg leave humbly to assure your Majesty, that we have the fullest conviction of your Majesty's paternal care and affection for your people, and that the prosperity of your subjects is the first object of your royal attention ; which could not be more fully manifested than in the resolution your Majesty has taken to support and maintain in their just balance the rights and privileges of every branch of the legislature.

His Majesty's most gracious Answer.

My Lords,

I THANK you for this very loyal and dutiful address. I receive with great satisfaction every fresh mark of your attachment to me, and your zeal for the public interests, and for the preservation of our most excellent constitution.

Address by the House of Commons to his Majesty, May 25, 1784.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons of Great Britain, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to return your Majesty our humble thanks for your most gracious speech from the throne.

We beg your Majesty will be assured that we are animated with the warmest sentiments of loyalty, and an inviolable attachment to our excellent constitution, which are, we trust, inseparably united in the hearts of your faithful subjects : we acknowledge with the warmest gratitude and satisfaction, your Majesty's wisdom and goodness in recurring, at so important a moment, to the sense of your people ; and that we trust, so seasonable an exercise of the power entrusted to your Majesty by the constitution will not fail to be attended by the most happy and beneficial effects.

Your Majesty may be assured that your faithful Commons will be ready to take proper measures for the application of the sums voted in the last Parliament, and to grant such farther supplies as may appear to be necessary ; having the fullest confidence that all your Majesty's subjects will, from loyalty to your Majesty, and zeal for the interests of the country, be ready to support those heavy burdens, which, in consequence of a long and expensive war, are now unavoidable, and will be
sensible

sensible of the necessity of effectually providing for the maintenance of the national faith and the public credit, so essential to the power and prosperity of the state.

We also beg leave to assure your Majesty, that we shall apply our utmost attention to the means of preventing the increasing frauds in the revenue; that we shall also take into our most serious consideration such commercial regulations as the present situation may immediately require.

That, in our deliberations on the affairs of the East India Company, so deeply connected with the general interests of the country, we shall be truly anxious to provide for the good government of our possessions in that part of the world.

That we shall be careful never to lose sight of the effects which any measure to be adopted for that purpose may have on our excellent constitution, and our dearest interests at home; and that we are deeply penetrated with the gracious and parental expressions of his Majesty's affection and goodness to his people, and have the most dutiful reliance on his Majesty's royal attention to every object of national concern, and to the true principles of our free constitution, which can only be secured by maintaining, in their just balance, the rights and privileges of every branch of the legislature.

His Majesty's most gracious Answer.

Gentlemen,

I RETURN you my most cordial thanks for this very loyal and dutiful address.

The affectionate expressions of attachment from my faithful Commons, and their zealous regard to the principles of our invaluable constitution, must ever afford me the most sincere satisfaction.

Address of the Archbishops, Bishops, and Clergy of the Province of Canterbury, in Convocation assembled, to his Majesty, June 9, 1784.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Archbishop, Bishops, and Clergy of the province of Canterbury, in convocation assembled, beg leave to approach your royal person with those sentiments of veneration and re-

spectful attachment, which are but a just return for your Majesty's unwearied exertions for the public welfare.

It is with the utmost satisfaction we embrace every opportunity of professing to your Majesty, and to the world, our deep sense of all the blessings we enjoy under your mild and auspicious government; but we should be ungrateful of our character, as ministers of the gospel, if we omitted to express our warmest acknowledgments for that firm support of our holy religion, as by law established, which your Majesty hath so much at heart, and of which we experience the most convincing proofs in your protection, and from your example.

We trust that we prize these blessings as we ought: but we are sensible that no expressions of duty on our part will be so acceptable to your Majesty, as the assurance of our earnest endeavours, in our respective situations, to advance the glory of God, and the good of mankind, by the promotion of true Christian piety and virtue, remembering always, that obedience to civil government must have its root in the fear of God, that it must be propagated, nourished, and preserved in religion.

By such means we shall best approve ourselves faithful ministers and good citizens, dutiful subjects of your Majesty, and true lovers of our country, interests which, whoever would divide, can be a friend to neither.

May the Almighty, from whom princes derive not only their authority but their usefulness. Be for the exertion of it, proportion his assistance to the difficulties with which his chosen situation is encompassed. May he continue, out of his goodness to this nation, to protect and preserve you; to crown with success your endeavours for the public service, and to requite them with the willing obedience of a grateful people.

May your Majesty's reign over us be long and happy, each succeeding year be marked with the blessings of peace and public prosperity, and with every additional circumstance of domestic felicity.

His Majesty's most gracious Answer.

Gentlemen,

I THANK you for this very dutiful and affectionate address.

I receive with pleasure your expressions of zeal for our holy religion, and your assurances of your earnest endeavours to advance the glory of God, and the good of mankind, by the promotion of true Christian piety and virtue.

I shall

I shall ever continue to support, to the utmost of my power, the church of England, as by law established, as well as the religious and civil rights of my people.

Message from his Majesty, July 21, 1784.

GEORGE REX.

IT gives his Majesty great concern, that, notwithstanding the retrenchments which have been already made in the establishment of the civil list, he finds himself under the necessity of acquainting the House of Commons, that debts have been incurred by the unavoidable expences of his civil government, to a considerable amount, an account of which he has ordered to be laid before the House.

His Majesty relies on the zeal and affection of his faithful Commons, that they will take the same into their early consideration, and provide such means as they shall think proper, to enable his Majesty to discharge the same.

G. R.

Speech of Mr. Speaker to his Majesty, Aug. 20, 1784.

YOUR faithful Commons, in compliance with your Majesty's request, by very heavy taxes on your Majesty's subjects, have made provision for the support of the public credit, and for making up the deficiencies in the civil list, not doubting but your Majesty's wisdom and justice will properly dispose of what the confidence of your people has so liberally granted.

Regulations have been made for the better government of your Majesty's dominions in India, and a tribunal of justice has been instituted, which, it is to be hoped, will enforce in that distant quarter of the world those maxims of justice which so happily prevail in your Majesty's other dominions.

Laws have been made for the prevention of smuggling, and thereby restoring, supporting, and increasing the resources of public revenue.

His

His Majesty's most gracious Speech, Aug. 20, 1784.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I CANNOT close this session of Parliament without returning you my warmest thanks for the eminent proofs you have given of your zealous and diligent attention to the public service.

The happiest effects may be expected from the provisions which you have made for the better government of India, and from the institution of a tribunal so peculiarly adapted to the trial of offences committed in that distant country.

I observe with great satisfaction the laws which you have passed for the preservation and improvement of the revenue. No exertions shall be wanting on my part to give them vigour and effect.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

The zeal and liberality with which you have provided for the exigencies of the public service, and the assistance which you have given me to prevent a growing arrear in the expences of my civil list, demand my particular thanks.

I feel in common with you for the unavoidable burdens of my people.

The importance of effectually supporting our national credit, after a long and exhausting war, can alone reconcile me to so painful a necessity. I trust the same consideration will enable my faithful subjects to meet it, as they have uniformly done, with fortitude and patience.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

The definitive treaty which has been signed with the States General of the United Provinces, and the peace concluded in India, as well as the assurances which I receive from foreign powers, promise the continuance of general tranquillity.

I trust, therefore, that after so laborious a session, it will not be found necessary to call you again together at a very early period.

Many important objects with respect to our trade and commerce, which could not now be provided for, will naturally require your attention after the recess; and such regulations will, I trust, be framed, after a full investigation, as shall be found best calculated to promote the wealth and prosperity of all the parts of the empire.

Then

Then the Lord Chancellor, by his Majesty's command, said,

My Lords and Gentlemen,

IT is his Majesty's royal will and pleasure, that this Parliament be prorogued to Tuesday, the twenty-sixth day of October next, to be then here holden; and this Parliament is accordingly prorogued to Tuesday, the twenty-sixth day of October next.

His Majesty's most gracious Speech, Jan. 25, 1785.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

AFTER the laborious attendance of the late session of Parliament, it has given me peculiar pleasure that the situation of public affairs has admitted of so long a recess.

Among the objects which now require consideration, I must particularly recommend to your earnest attention the adjustment of such points in the commercial intercourse between Great Britain and Ireland as are not yet finally arranged; the system which will unite both kingdoms the most closely on principles of reciprocal advantage, will, I am persuaded, best ensure the general prosperity of my dominions.

I have the satisfaction to acquaint you, that notwithstanding any appearance of differences on the continent, I continue uniformly to receive from all foreign powers the strongest assurances of their good dispositions towards this country.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I have ordered the estimates for the ensuing year to be laid before you; I confide in your liberality and zeal to grant the necessary supplies, with just regard, as well to the œconomy requisite in every department, as to the maintenance of the national credit, and the real exigencies of the public service.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

The success which has attended the measures taken in the last session towards the suppression of smuggling, and for the improvement of the revenue, will encourage you to apply yourselves with continual assiduity to those important objects. You will, I trust, also take into early consideration the matters suggested in the reports of the commissioners of public accounts, and such farther regulations as may appear to be necessary in the different offices of the kingdom.

I have

I have the fullest reliance on the continuance of your faithful and diligent exertions in every part of your public duty. You may at all times depend on my hearty concurrence in every measure which can tend to alleviate our national burdens, to secure the true principles of the constitution, and to promote the general welfare of my people.

Address of the House of Lords to his Majesty, Jan. 25, 1785.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Lords spiritual and temporal, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to return your Majesty our humble thanks for your Majesty's most gracious speech from the throne.

Permit us to express to your Majesty our most grateful sense of your Majesty's regard for our private convenience, in not commanding from us an earlier attendance in Parliament.

Your Majesty may rely on our faithful and diligent exertions in every part of our duty; and, truly sensible of the importance of the object, we beg leave to assure your Majesty, that it is our determination to give our immediate attention to the adjustment of such points in the commercial intercourse between Great Britain and Ireland as are not yet finally arranged; trusting that such a system may be formed as may best ensure the prosperity of both kingdoms, by closely uniting them upon principles of reciprocal advantage.

We desire to return to your Majesty our warmest thanks for your gracious communication of the assurances which your Majesty continues to receive of the good disposition of foreign powers towards this country, notwithstanding the differences which appear to prevail upon the continent.

The information your Majesty is pleased to give us of the success which has attended the measures taken the last session for the suppression of smuggling, and for the improvement of the revenue, affords us the greatest satisfaction: and your Majesty may be assured, that we will apply ourselves with unre-mitted attention to points of such great concern to the prosperity of this country, and that we will take into our early consideration the matters suggested in the several reports of the commissioners of public accounts, as well as such further regulations as may appear to be necessary in the public offices of the kingdom.

From the experience we have had of your Majesty's paternal regard for the interests of all your subjects, we beg leave humbly



humbly to express to your Majesty our fullest confidence in the gracious assurance of your Majesty's hearty concurrence in every measure which may tend to alleviate the national burdens, to secure the true principles of the constitution, and to promote the general happiness and welfare of your people.

His Majesty's most gracious Answer.

My Lords,

I RETURN you thanks for this dutiful and affectionate address.

Nothing can give me more satisfaction, than your assurance that you will immediately enter into the consideration of the matters which I have laid before you.

You may depend upon the utmost care and attention on my part, to settle every thing which concerns the interest of my kingdoms upon a solid and durable foundation.

Address of the House of Commons to his Majesty, Jan. 26, 1785.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons of Great Britain, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to return your Majesty our humble thanks for your most gracious speech from the throne.

We beg your Majesty will be assured, that we shall resume the consideration of public business with the same principles of duty to your Majesty, and regard to the interests of our constituents, which we have endeavoured to manifest in all our proceedings.

That we will not fail to give our most earnest attention to the adjustment of such points as are not yet finally arranged in the commercial intercourse between Great Britain and Ireland; fully agreeing with your Majesty, in thinking that the system which will unite both kingdoms the most closely, on principles of reciprocal advantage, will best ensure the general prosperity of your Majesty's dominions.

We beg leave to assure your Majesty, that it affords us the truest pleasure to be informed, that notwithstanding any appearance of differences on the continent, your Majesty continues to receive such satisfactory assurances of the good disposition of foreign powers towards this country.

We beseech your Majesty to believe that we shall at all times be ready to grant such supplies as are necessary for the maintenance of the national credit, and the real exigencies of the public service.

That we are deeply sensible of your Majesty's paternal goodness and care for your people, in recommending to us, at the same time, a just regard to the œconomy requisite in every department; a duty which your Majesty's faithful Commons feel always incumbent upon them, and, at this time, peculiarly indispensable.

We assure your Majesty, that we see the importance of every exertion which can tend to the suppression of smuggling and the improvement of the revenue; and that we shall continue to apply ourselves, with unwearied assiduity, to those important objects

That we shall also proceed, with as much expedition as possible, to the consideration of the reports of the commissioners of accounts, as well as of such further regulations in the different offices of this kingdom as may appear likely to conduce to the public advantage.

We entreat your Majesty to be assured, that our utmost endeavours shall not be wanting to justify your Majesty's gracious reliance on our diligent attention to every part of our public duty; and that we receive with the warmest gratitude and satisfaction the assurances of your Majesty's concurrence in every measure which can tend to alleviate the national burdens, to secure the true principles of the constitution, and to promote the general welfare of the people.

His Majesty's most gracious Answer.

Gentlemen,

I RETURN you my thanks for your very loyal and affectionate address. I receive, with the utmost pleasure, the assurances of your disposition to resume the consideration of public business with the same principles which you have manifested in all your former proceedings, and I trust, that the result of your deliberations will be productive of the most salutary effects.

Resolutions of the Houses of Lords and Commons of Ireland, relative to the commercial intercourse between that Country and Great Britain, presented to both Houses of Parliament by his Majesty's Command, Feb. 22, 1785.

1st. RESOLVED, That it is highly important to the general interest of the British empire, that the trade between Great Britain and Ireland be encouraged and extended as much as possible; and for that purpose, that the intercourse and

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commerce be finally settled and regulated on permanent and equitable principles for the mutual benefit of both countries.

2d. Resolved, That towards carrying into full effect so desirable a settlement, it is fit and proper that all articles, not the growth or manufacture of Great Britain, or Ireland, should be imported into each kingdom from the other, reciprocally, under the same regulation, and at the same duties, if subject to duties, to which they are liable when imported directly from the place of their growth, product, or manufacture; and that all duties originally paid on importation into either country respectively, shall be fully drawn back on exportation to the other.

3d. Resolved, That for the same purpose it is proper, that no prohibition should exist in either country against the importation, use, or sale of any article, the growth, product, or manufacture of the other; and that the duty on the importation of every such article, if subject to duty, in either country, should be precisely the same in the one country as in the other, except where an addition may be necessary in either country, in consequence of an internal duty on any such article of its own consumption.

4th. Resolved, That in all cases where the duties on articles of the growth, product, or manufacture of either country, are different on the importation into the other, it would be expedient that they should be reduced in the kingdom where they are the highest, to the amount payable in the other, and that all such articles should be exportable from the kingdom into which they shall be imported, as free from duty as the similar commodities or home manufactures of the same kingdom.

5th. Resolved, That for the same purpose it is also proper, that in all cases where either kingdom shall charge articles of its own consumption with an internal duty on the manufacture, or a duty on the material, the same manufacture, when imported from the other, may be charged with a further duty on importation, to the same amount as the internal duty on the manufacture, or to an amount adequate to countervail the duty on the material, and shall be entitled to such drawbacks or bounties on exportation, as may leave the same subject to no heavier burden than the home-made manufacture; such further duty to continue so long only as the internal consumption shall be charged with the duty or duties, to balance which it shall be imposed, or until the manufacture coming from the other kingdom shall be subjected there to an equal burden not drawn back or compensated on exportation.

6th. Resolved, That in order to give permanency to the settlement now intended to be established, it is necessary that no pro-

prohibition, or new or additional duties, should be hereafter imposed in either kingdom, on the importation of any article of the growth, product, or manufacture of the other, except such additional duties as may be requisite to balance duties on internal consumption, pursuant to the foregoing resolution.

7th. Resolved, That for the same purpose it is necessary farther, that no prohibition, or new or additional duties, should be hereafter imposed in either kingdom, on the exportation of any article of native growth, product, or manufacture, from thence to the other, except such as either kingdom may deem expedient, from time to time, upon corn, meal, malt, flour, and biscuits; and also except where there now exists any prohibition which is not reciprocal, or any duty which is not equal in both kingdoms, in every which case the prohibition may be made reciprocal, or the duties raised so as to make them equal.

8th. Resolved, That for the same purpose it is necessary that no bounties whatsoever should be paid, or payable, in either kingdom, on the exportation of any article to the other, except such as relate to corn, meal, malt, flour, and biscuits, and such as are in the nature of drawbacks or compensations for duties paid, and that no duty should be granted in this kingdom on the exportation of any article imported from the British plantations, or any manufacture made of such article, unless in cases where a similar bounty is payable in Britain, on exportation from thence, or where such bounty is merely in the nature of a drawback, or compensation of, or for duties paid over and above any duties paid thereon in Britain.

9th. Resolved, That it is expedient, for the general benefit of the British empire, that the importation of articles from foreign states should be regulated from time to time, in each kingdom, on such terms as may afford an effectual preference to the importation of similar articles of the growth, product, or manufacture of the other.

10th. Resolved, That it is essential to the commercial interests of this country to prevent, as much as possible, an accumulation of national debt, and therefore it is highly expedient, that the annual revenues of this kingdom should be made equal to its annual expences.

11th. Resolved, That for the better protection of trade, whatever sum the gross hereditary revenue of this kingdom (after deducting all drawbacks, repayments, or bounties, granted in the nature of drawbacks) shall produce, over and above the sum of 656,000*l.* in each year of peace, wherein the annual revenues shall be equal to the annual expences, and
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in each year of war, without regard to such equality, should be appropriated towards the support of the naval force of the empire, in such manner as the Parliament of this kingdom shall direct.

W. WATTS GAYER, } Cler. Parliament.
EDWARD GAYER, }

THOMAS ELLIS, Cler. Parl. Dom. Com.

Resolutions of both Houses of Parliament relative to the Adjustment of the Commercial Intercourse between Great Britain and Ireland.

RESOLVED, I. That it is highly important to the general interest of the British empire, that the intercourse and commerce between Great Britain and Ireland should be finally regulated on permanent and equitable principles, for the mutual benefit of both countries.

II. That it is consistent with the essential interests of the manufactures, revenues, commerce, and navigation of Great Britain, that a full participation of commercial advantages should be permanently secured to Ireland, whenever a provision, equally permanent and secure, shall be made by the Parliament of that kingdom towards defraying, in proportion to its growing prosperity, the necessary expences, in time of peace, of protecting the trade and general interests of the empire.

III. That, towards carrying into full effect so desirable a settlement, it is fit and proper that all articles, not the growth or manufacture of Great Britain or Ireland, except those of the growth, produce, or manufacture of any of the countries beyond the Cape of Good Hope to the Streights of Magellan, should be imported into each kingdom from the other reciprocally, under the same regulations, and at the same duties, (if subject to duties) to which they would be liable when imported directly from the country or place from whence the same may have been imported into Great Britain or Ireland respectively, as the case may be; and that all duties originally paid on importation into either country respectively, except on arrack or foreign brandy, and on rum and all sorts of strong waters not imported from the British Colonies in the West Indies, shall be fully drawn back, within a time to be fixed, on exportation to the other; but, never less, that the duties shall continue to be protected and guarded, as at present, by withholding the drawback until a certificate from the proper officers of the revenue in the kingdom to which the export may

be made, shall be returned and compared with the entry outwards.

IV. That it is highly important to the general interests of the British empire, that the laws for regulating trade and navigation should be the same in Great Britain and Ireland; and therefore that it is essential, towards carrying into effect the present settlement, that all laws which have been made, or shall be made, in Great Britain, for securing exclusive privileges to the ships and mariners of Great Britain, Ireland, and the British Colonies and plantations, and for regulating and restraining the trade of the British Colonies and plantations (such laws imposing the same restraints, and conferring the same benefits on the subjects of both kingdoms) should be in force in Ireland, by laws to be passed in the Parliament of that kingdom, for the same time, and in the same manner, as in Great Britain.

V. That it is farther essential to this settlement, that all goods and commodities of the growth, produce, or manufacture of British or foreign colonies in America, or the West Indies, and the British or foreign settlements on the coast of Africa, imported into Ireland, should, on importation, be subject to the same duties and regulations as the like goods are, or from time to time shall be subject to, upon importation into Great Britain; or if prohibited to be imported into Great Britain, shall be prohibited in like manner from being imported into Ireland.

VI. That in order to prevent illicit practices injurious to the revenue and commerce of both kingdoms, it is expedient that all goods, whether of the growth, produce, or manufacture of Great Britain or Ireland, or of any foreign country, which shall hereafter be imported into Great Britain from Ireland, or into Ireland from Great Britain, should be put (by laws to be passed in the Parliaments of the two kingdoms) under the same regulations with respect to bonds, cocket, and other instruments, to which the like goods are now subject in passing from one port of Great Britain to another.

VII. That for the like purpose it is also expedient, that when any goods, the growth, produce, or manufacture of the British West India islands, or any other of the British colonies or plantations, shall be shipped from Ireland for Great Britain, they shall be accompanied with such original certificates of the revenue officers of the said colonies as shall be required by law on importation into Great Britain; and that, when the whole quantity included in one certificate shall not be shipped at any one time, the original certificate, properly indorsed as to quantity, should be sent with the first parcel; and to identify

tify the remainder, if shipped within a time to be limited, new certificates should be granted by the principal officers of the ports in Ireland, extracted from a register of the original documents, specifying the quantities before shipped from thence, by what vessels, and to what ports.

VIII That it is essential, for carrying into effect the present settlement, that all goods exported from Ireland to the British colonies in the West Indies, or in America, or to the British settlements on the coast of Africa, or to the countries beyond the Cape of Good Hope to the Straights of Magellan, should from time to time be made liable to such duties and drawbacks, and put under such regulations, as may be necessary, in order that the same may not be exported with less incumbrance of duties, or impositions, than the like goods shall be burdened with when exported from Great Britain.

IX. That it is essential to the general commercial interests of the empire, that, so long as the Parliament of this kingdom shall think it advisable that the commerce to the countries beyond the Cape of Good Hope to the Straights of Magellan, shall be carried on solely by an exclusive company, having liberty to import into the port of London only, no goods of the growth, produce, or manufacture of the said countries should be allowed to be imported into Ireland but through Great Britain: except dye stuffs, drugs, cotton or other wool, and fceries which may be imported into Ireland from foreign European countries, so long as the same are importable from foreign European countries into Great Britain; and that it shall be lawful to export such goods of the growth, produce, or manufacture of any of the countries beyond the Cape of Good Hope to the Straights of Magellan, from Great Britain to Ireland, with the same duties retained thereon as are now retained on their being exported to that kingdom, but that an account shall be kept of the duties retained, and not drawn back on the said goods exported to Ireland, and that the amount thereof shall be remitted, by the Receiver-general of his Majesty's customs in Great Britain, to the proper officer of the revenue in Ireland, to be placed to the account of his Majesty's revenue there, subject to the disposal of the Parliament of that kingdom; and that the ships going from Great Britain to any of the said countries beyond the Cape of Good Hope to the Straights of Magellan, should not be restrained from touching at any of the ports in Ireland, and taking on board there any of the goods of the growth, produce, or manufacture of that kingdom; and that no ships be allowed to clear out from Ireland for any of the said countries, but such ships as shall be freighted by the said company, and which shall have sailed

from the port of London: and that, whenever the commerce to the said countries shall cease to be so carried on solely by such an exclusive company, the goods, the growth, produce, or manufacture of the said countries beyond the Cape of Good Hope to the Streights of Magellan, should be importable into Ireland from the British or foreign settlements in the East Indies, subject to the same duties and regulations as the like goods from time to time shall be subject to on importation into Great Britain; and if prohibited to be imported into Great Britain, should in like manner be prohibited from being imported into Ireland.

X. That no prohibition should exist, in either country, against the importation, use, or sale of any article, the growth, produce, or manufacture of the other, except such as either kingdom may judge expedient, from time to time, upon corn, meal, malt, flour, and biscuits; and except such qualified prohibitions, at present contained in any act of the British or Irish Parliaments, as do absolutely prevent the importation of goods or manufactures, or materials of manufactures, but only regulate the weight, the size, the packages, or other particular circumstances, or prescribe the built or country, and dimensions of the ships in porting the same; and also, except on ammunition, arms, gunpowder, and other utensils of war, importable only by virtue of his Majesty's licence; and that the duty on the importation of every such article (it subject to duty in either country) should be precisely the same in the one country as in the other, except where an addition may be necessary in either country, in consequence of an internal duty on any such article of its own consumption, or an internal bounty in the country where such article is grown, produced, or manufactured; and except such duties as either kingdom may judge expedient, from time to time, upon corn, meal, malt, flour, and biscuits.

XI. That, in all cases in which the duties on articles of the growth, produce, or manufacture, of either country are different, on the importation into the other, it is expedient that they should be reduced, in the kingdom in which they are the highest, to an amount not exceeding the duties which were payable in the other on the 17th day of May, 1782, so that in every case in which any article was charged with a duty, on importation into Ireland, of ten and a half per cent. or upwards, on the 17th day of May, 1782, the amount of the duties so reduced shall not be less than the said duty of ten and a half per cent. unless in cases where any articles are importable duty free into either kingdom from the other, which articles shall hereafter be imported duty free into each from the

the other respectively ; and that all such articles should be exportable from the kingdom into which they shall be imported, as free from duties as the similar commodities, or home manufacture of the same kingdom : provided always, that when any such articles shall be liable, in either country, to any duty on being exported to any foreign country, the same articles, when re-exported from either of the said kingdoms into which they shall have been so imported as aforesaid, shall pay the like duties as if they had been originally exported from the kingdom of their growth, produce, or manufacture, to such foreign country.

XII. That it is also proper, that in all cases in which the articles of the consumption of either kingdom shall be charged with an internal duty on the manufacture, such manufacture, when imported from the other, may be charged with a farther duty on importation adequate to countervail the internal duty on the manufacture, such farther duty to continue so long only as the internal consumption shall be charged with the duty or duties to balance which it shall be imposed, provided that the countervailing duty to be paid upon manufactured salt imported into any part of Great Britain shall be computed upon the internal duty payable thereon in England ; and that, where there is a duty on the raw material of any manufacture in either kingdom, such manufacture may, on its importation into the said kingdom from the other, be charged with such a countervailing duty as may be sufficient to subject the same to burdens adequate to those which such manufacture is subject to in consequence of such duties on such raw material in the kingdom into which such manufacture is so to be imported ; and that the said manufacture so imported shall be entitled to such drawbacks or bounties on exportation as may leave the same subject to no heavier burden than the home-made manufacture ; and that, in every case where a duty shall be payable in either kingdom on any article carried coastwise from one port to another of the said kingdom, the same article, when imported from the other kingdom, should be subject to the like duty.

XIII. That in order to give permanency to the settlement now intended to be established, it is necessary that no new or additional duties should be hereafter imposed in either kingdom, on the importation of any article of the growth, produce, or manufacture of the other, except such additional duties as may be requisite to balance duties on internal consumption, pursuant to the foregoing resolution, or in consequence of bounties remaining on such article when exported from the other kingdom.

XIV. That, for the same purpose, it is necessary, farther, that no new prohibition, or new or additional duties, should be hereafter imposed, in either kingdom, on the exportation of any article of native growth, produce, or manufacture, from the one kingdom to the other, except such as either kingdom may deem expedient, from time to time, upon corn, meal, malt, flour, and biscuits: provided, that when any article of the growth, produce, or manufacture of either kingdom, shall be prohibited by the laws of the said kingdom to be exported to foreign countries, the same article, when exported to the other kingdoms, shall be prohibited to be re-exported from thence to any foreign countries.

XV. That, for the same purpose, it is necessary, that no bounties whatsoever should be paid or payable, in either kingdom, on the exportation of any article to the other, except such as relate to corn, meal, malt, flour, and biscuits, and except also the bounties at present given by Great Britain on beer and spirits distilled from corn, and such as are in the nature of drawbacks or compensations for duties paid; and that no bounties should be payable in Ireland on the exportation of any article to any British colonies or plantations, or to the British settlements on the coast of Africa, or British settlements in the East Indies, or any manufacture made of such article, unless in cases where a similar bounty is payable in Great Britain, on exportation from thence, or where such bounty is merely in the nature of a drawback or compensation of or for duties paid over and above any duties paid thereon in Great Britain; and that, where any internal bounty shall be given, in either kingdom, on any goods manufactured therein, and shall remain on such goods when exported, a countervailing duty adequate thereto may be laid upon the importation of the said goods into the other kingdom.

XVI. That it is expedient for the general benefit of the British empire, that the importation of articles from foreign countries should be regulated, from time to time, in each kingdom, on such terms as may effectually favour the importation of similar articles of the growth, produce, or manufacture of the other; except in the case of materials of manufacture, which are, or hereafter may be allowed to be imported from foreign countries duty free; and that in all cases where any articles are or may be subject to higher duties on importation into this kingdom, from the countries belonging to any of the states of North America, than the like goods are or may be subject to when imported as the growth, produce, or manufacture of the British colonies and plantations, or as the produce of the fisheries carried on by British subjects, such articles shall be subject
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to the same duties on importation into Ireland, from the countries belonging to any of the states in North America, as the same are or may be subject to on importation from the said countries into this kingdom.

XVII. That it is expedient that such privileges of printing and vending books, engravings, prints, maps, charts, and plans, as are or may be legally possessed within Great Britain, under the grant of the crown or otherwise; and that the copy rights of the authors and booksellers, the engraved property of engravers, print and map-sellers of Great Britain, should continue to be protected in the manner they are at present by the laws of Great Britain; and that it is just that measures should be taken by the Parliament of Ireland for giving the like protection to the copy rights of authors and booksellers, and to the engraved property of the engravers, print and map-sellers of that kingdom.

XVIII. That it is expedient that such exclusive rights and privileges, arising from new inventions, as are now legally possessed within Great Britain under letters patent from the crown, shall continue to be protected in the manner they are at present by the laws of Great Britain; and that it is just that measures should be taken by the Parliament of Ireland for giving the like protection to similar rights and privileges in that kingdom; and also that it is expedient that regulations should be adopted with respect to letters patent hereafter to be granted in the case of new inventions, so that the rights, privileges, and restrictions, therein granted and contained, shall be of equal force and duration throughout both kingdoms.

XIX. That it is expedient that measures should be taken to prevent disputes, touching the exercise of the right of the inhabitants of each kingdom to fish on the coasts of any of the British dominions.

XX. That the appropriation of whatever sum the gross hereditary revenue of the kingdom of Ireland (the due collection thereof being secured by permanent provisions) shall produce, after deducting all drawbacks, re-payments, or bounties granted in the nature of drawbacks, over and above the sum of six hundred and fifty-six thousand pounds in each year, towards the support of the naval force of the empire, to be applied in such manner as the Parliament of Ireland shall direct, by an act to be passed for that purpose, will be a satisfactory provision, proportioned to the growing prosperity of that kingdom, towards defraying, in time of peace, the necessary expences of protecting the trade and general interests of the empire.

Joint Address of both Houses, July 29, 1785.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Lords spiritual and temporal, and Commons of Great Britain, in Parliament assembled, have taken into our most serious consideration the important subject of the commercial intercourse between Great Britain and Ireland, recommended in your Majesty's speech at the opening of the present session, and the resolution of the two Houses of Parliament in Ireland, which were laid before us by your Majesty's command, on the 22d of February last.

After a long and careful investigation of the various questions necessarily arising out of this comprehensive subject, we have come to the several resolutions which we now humbly present to your Majesty, and which we trust will form the basis of an advantageous and permanent commercial settlement between your Majesty's kingdoms of Great Britain and Ireland.

We have proceeded on the foundation of the resolutions of the Parliament of Ireland; but in considering so extensive an arrangement, we have found it necessary to introduce some modifications and exceptions, and we have added such regulations and conditions as appeared to us indispensably necessary for establishing the proposed agreement on just and equitable principles, and for securing to both countries those commercial advantages to an equal enjoyment of which they are in future to be entitled.

Your Majesty's subjects in Ireland being secured in a full and lasting participation of the trade with the British colonies, must, we are persuaded, acknowledge the justice of their continuing to enjoy it on the same terms with your Majesty's subjects in Great Britain.

And it is, we conceive, equally manifest, that as the ships and mariners of Ireland are to continue in all time to come to enjoy the same privileges with those of Great Britain, the same provision should be adopted in Ireland as may be found necessary in this country, for securing those advantages exclusively to the subjects of the empire. This object is essentially connected with the maritime strength of your Majesty's dominions, and consequently with the safety and prosperity both of Great Britain and Ireland.

We therefore deem it indispensable that these points should be secured as conditions necessary to the existence and duration of the agreement between the two countries; they can only be carried into effect by laws to be passed in the Parliament of Ireland,

land, which are alone competent to bind your Majesty's subjects in that kingdom, and whose legislative rights we shall ever hold as sacred as our own.

It remains for the Parliament of Ireland to judge, according to their wisdom and discretion, of these conditions, as well as of every other part of the settlement proposed to be established by mutual consent.

Our purpose in these resolutions is to promote alike the commercial interests of your Majesty's subjects in both countries; and we are persuaded that the common prosperity of the two kingdoms will be thereby greatly advanced; the subjects of each will in future apply themselves to those branches of commerce which they can exercise with most advantage, and the wealth so diffused through every part will operate as a general benefit of the whole.

We have thus far performed our part in this important business; and we trust that in the whole of its progress reciprocal interests and mutual affection will inspire that spirit of union, so essentially necessary to the great end which the two countries have equally in view.

In this persuasion we look forward with confidence to the final completion of a measure which, while it tends to perpetuate harmony and friendship between the two kingdoms, must, by augmenting their resources, uniting their efforts, and consolidating their strength, afford your Majesty the surest means of establishing, on a lasting foundation, the safety, prosperity, and glory of the empire.

His Majesty's most gracious Answer.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I RECEIVE with the greatest satisfaction these resolutions, which, after so long and diligent an investigation, you consider as affording the basis of an advantageous and permanent commercial settlement between my kingdoms of Great Britain and Ireland. Nothing can more clearly manifest your regard for the interests of both my kingdoms, and your zeal for the general prosperity of my dominions, than the attention you have given to this important object. A full and equal participation of commercial advantages, and a similarity of laws in those points which are necessary for their preservation and security, must be the surest bond of union between the two kingdoms, and the source of reciprocal and increasing benefits to both. The same spirit in which this great work has begun and proceeded, will, I doubt not, appear throughout the whole of
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its progress ; and I concur with you in thinking, that the final completion of it is of essential importance to the future happiness of both countries, and to the safety, glory, and prosperity of the empire.

August 2, 1785.

THE Chancellor of the Exchequer acquainted the House of Commons, that it was the King's pleasure the House should be adjourned until Thursday, the 27th day of October next ; and the House accordingly adjourned until Thursday, the 27th day of October next, from which time it was farther prorogued until Tuesday, the 24th day of January, 1786.

His Majesty's most gracious Speech, Jan. 24, 1786.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

SINCE I last met you in Parliament, the disputes which appeared to threaten an interruption to the tranquillity of Europe have been brought to an amicable conclusion ; and I continue to receive from foreign powers the strongest assurances of their friendly disposition towards this country.

At home my subjects experience the growing blessings of peace in the extension of trade, the improvement of the revenue, and the increase of the public credit of the nation.

For the farther advancement of those important objects, I rely on the continuance of that zeal and industry which you manifested in the last session of Parliament.

The resolutions which you laid before me as the basis of an adjustment of the commercial intercourse between Great Britain and Ireland, have been by my directions communicated to the Parliament of that kingdom ; but no effectual step has hitherto been taken thereupon which can enable you to make any further progress in that salutary work.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I have ordered the estimates for the present year to be laid before you : it is my earnest wish to enforce economy in every department ; and you will, I am persuaded, be equally ready to make such provision as may be necessary for the public service, and particularly for maintaining our naval strength on the most secure and respectable footing. Above all, let me recommend to you the establishment of a fixed plan for the reduction of the national debt. The flourishing state of the revenue

God will, I trust, enable you to effect this important measure with little addition to the public burdens.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

The vigour and resources of the country, so fully manifested in its present situation, will encourage you in continuing to give your utmost attention to every object of national concern, particularly to the consideration of such measures as may be necessary in order to give farther security to the revenue, and to promote and extend as far as possible the trade and general industry of my subjects.

Address of the House of Lords to his Majesty, Jan. 24, 1786.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Lords spiritual and temporal, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to return your Majesty our humble thanks for your most gracious speech from the throne.

Impressed with the fullest conviction of the blessings which result from a state of general peace, it affords us great satisfaction to be informed that the disputes which appeared to threaten an interruption to the tranquillity of Europe, have been brought to an amicable conclusion; and that your Majesty continues to receive from foreign powers the strongest assurances of their friendly disposition toward this country.

Earnestly interested in whatever may contribute to the strength and splendour of the nation, and the wealth of your Majesty's subjects, we cannot but be deeply sensible of the advantages which must be derived from the extension of trade, the improvement of the revenue, and the increase of the public credit.

The promotion of the common interest and prosperity of all your Majesty's subjects was the object of those resolutions which we humbly laid before your Majesty in the last session of Parliament, as the foundation of a permanent and equitable adjustment of the commercial intercourse between Great Britain and Ireland; but no effectual step having been taken in consequence of them by the Parliament of Ireland, the progress of that measure, however salutary, cannot properly become the subject of our present consideration.

We humbly entreat your Majesty to be persuaded that the vigour and resources of the country which, with heart-felt satisfaction, we observe are so fully manifested in its present situation, cannot fail to excite a still more active attention to
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the important objects of national concern which your Majesty is pleased to recommend to our consideration, and particularly to such measures as may be necessary to give farther security to the revenue, and to promote and extend, as far as possible, the general industry of our country.

His Majesty's most gracious Answer.

My Lords,

I THANK you for this very dutiful and loyal address. I receive, with great satisfaction, your assurances, that you will give the strictest attention to the important objects of national concern which I have recommended to your consideration.

Address by the House of Commons to his Majesty, Jan. 25, 1786.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons of Great Britain, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to return your Majesty our most humble thanks for your most gracious speech from the throne.

We learn, with great satisfaction, that the disputes which appeared to threaten an interruption to the tranquillity of Europe have been brought to an amicable conclusion; and that your Majesty continues to receive from foreign powers the strongest assurances of their friendly disposition toward this country.

We are deeply sensible of the blessings which we experience from the enjoyment of peace, in the extension of trade, the improvement of the revenue, and the increase of the public credit of the nation; and your Majesty may rely on the utmost exertion of our zeal and industry for the farther advancement of these important objects.

In order to promote, as far as in us lay, the common interests of all your Majesty's subjects, we humbly laid before your Majesty, in the last session of Parliament, several resolutions, as the basis of an adjustment of the commercial intercourse between Great Britain and Ireland; but that, as no effectual step has hitherto been taken thereupon by the Parliament of that kingdom, we do not find ourselves at present enabled to make any farther progress in that salutary work.

We cannot refrain from offering the warmest expressions of our gratitude for your Majesty's gracious assurances of your
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earnest wish to enforce œconomy in every department. We shall be equally ready, at all times, to make such provision as may be necessary for every branch of the public service, particularly for maintaining the naval strength of these kingdoms on the most secure and respectable footing. Fully impressed with the necessity of establishing a fixed plan for the reduction of the national debt, we shall lose no time in entering on that important consideration; and it will afford us the most solid satisfaction to find that this most desirable object may be attained with little addition to the public burdens.

The vigour and resources so happily manifested in our present situation must give encouragement and confidence to all your Majesty's subjects, and cannot fail to animate our exertions in endeavouring, by a continued attention to the security of the revenue, and the extension of trade, to confirm and improve the increasing prosperity of the empire.

His Majesty's most gracious Answer.

Gentlemen,

I THANK you for this very loyal and dutiful address. I receive, with great satisfaction, the assurances of your disposition to enter with zeal and industry on the consideration of those important and salutary objects which I have recommended to your attention.

Message from his Majesty, March 29, 1786.

GEORGE R. X.

IT gives his Majesty great concern that it has not been found possible to confine the necessary expences of his civil government within the annual sum of eight hundred and fifty thousand pounds, now applicable thereto. A farther debt has been necessarily incurred, an account of which he has ordered to be laid before the House.

His Majesty relies on the zeal and affection of his faithful Commons, that they will take the same into their early consideration, and make such provision as the circumstances may appear to them to require.

G. R.

His

His Majesty's most gracious Speech, July 11, 1786.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I CANNOT close this session of Parliament, without expressing the particular satisfaction with which I have observed your diligent attention to the public business, and the measures you have adopted for improving the resources of the country.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I thank you for the supplies which you have granted for the service of the current year, and for the provision you have made for discharging the incumbrances on the revenue applicable to the uses of my civil government: the most salutary effects are to be expected from the plan adopted for the reduction of the national debt; an object which I consider as inseparably connected with the essential interests of the public.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

The assurances which I continue to receive from abroad promise the continuance of general tranquillity.

The happy effects of peace have already appeared in the extension of the national commerce; and no measures shall be wanting on my part which can tend to confirm these advantages, and to give additional encouragement to the manufactures and industry of my people.

Then the Speaker, by his Majesty's command, said,

My Lords and Gentlemen,

IT is his Majesty's royal will and pleasure, that this Parliament be prorogued to Thursday, the fourteenth day of September next, to be then here holden: and this Parliament is accordingly prorogued to Thursday, the fourteenth day of September next.

His Majesty's most gracious Speech, Jan. 23, 1787.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I HAVE particular satisfaction in acquainting you, that since I last met you in Parliament, the tranquillity of Europe has remained uninterrupted, and that all foreign powers continue to express their friendly disposition to this country.

I have

I have concluded a treaty of navigation and commerce with the most Christian King, a copy of which shall be laid before you. I must recommend it to you to take such measures as you shall judge proper for carrying it into effect; and I trust you will find that the provisions contained in it are calculated for the encouragement of industry and the extension of lawful commerce in both countries, and by promoting a beneficial intercourse between our respective subjects, appear likely to give additional permanence to the blessings of peace. I shall keep the same salutary objects in view, in the commercial arrangements which I am negotiating with other powers.

I have also given directions for laying before you a copy of a convention agreed up on between me and the Catholic King, for carrying into effect the sixth article of the last treaty of peace.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I have ordered the estimates for the present year to be laid before you, and I have the fullest reliance in your readiness to make due provision for the several branches of the public service.

The state of the revenue will, I am persuaded, continue to engage your constant attention, as being essentially connected with the national credit and the prosperity and safety of my dominions.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

A plan has been formed, by my direction, for transporting a number of convicts, in order to remove the inconvenience which arose from the crowded state of the gaols in different parts of the kingdom; and you will, I doubt not, take such further measures as may be necessary for this purpose.

I trust you will be able, in this session, to carry into effect regulations for the ease of the merchants, and for simplifying the public accounts in the various branches of the revenue; and I rely upon the uniform continuance of your exertions in pursuit of such objects as may tend still further to improve the national resources, and to promote and confirm the welfare and happiness of my people.

Address of the House of Lords to his Majesty, January 23, 1787.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Lords spiritual and temporal, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to return your Majesty our humble thanks for your most gracious speech from the throne.

Permit us to express to your Majesty the eagerness with which we take the earliest opportunity offered to us of joining the unanimous voice of our fellow subjects in congratulating your Majesty on the late providential interposition of the Almighty, in the preservation of a life so valuable to your people. We acknowledge, with reverence and gratitude, the Divine goodness, in averting the calamity with which we were threatened. We join in the general admiration of those virtues which compose your Majesty's character; and humbly beg leave to assure your Majesty, that we are happy in testifying the share we take in the loyal and affectionate attachment to your sacred person, which pervades the breasts of your Majesty's subjects in every part of your dominions.

It is with most sincere concern that we condole your Majesty upon the loss which you have sustained by the unfortunate death of that illustrious and excellent princess, your Majesty's aunt, her royal highness the Princess Amelia.

The present appearances of the preservation of the public tranquillity, as well as the assurances given to your Majesty by foreign powers, of their friendly disposition to this country, give us the greatest satisfaction.

We return your Majesty our hearty thanks for your goodness in directing the treaty of navigation and commerce with the most Christian King, and the convention with his Catholic Majesty, to be laid before us; and we beg leave to assure your Majesty, that in considering measures of so important and interesting a nature, we shall be happy to find in them a tendency to give an additional permanency to the blessings of peace, the encouragement of industry, and the extension of lawful commerce between your Majesty's subjects and those of the most Christian King; and that we shall, with pleasure, concur in any regulations calculated to insure those salutary purposes.

We learn, with great satisfaction, that your Majesty has taken measures for the transportation of a number of convicts, and for removing the inconveniencies which arise from the crowded state of the gaols; and we beg your Majesty will be
assured

assured, that we shall be ready to concur in such farther provisions as may be found necessary for this purpose.

We shall, with the same readiness, co-operate in whatever regulations may appear to be proper for the ease of the merchants, and for the simplifying the public accounts in the various branches of the revenue; and your Majesty may depend upon our best and steadiest exertions in pursuit of such measures as may tend still farther to improve the national resources, and to promote and confirm what has ever been the first object of the parental care and attention of your Majesty, the welfare and happiness of your people.

His Majesty's most gracious Answer.

My Lords,

I THANK you for this very loyal and dutiful address. Your expressions of affectionate attachment to my person, and zeal for my government, as well as your assurances of proceeding to the consideration of the important objects which I have recommended to you, give me the greatest satisfaction.

Address of the House of Commons to his Majesty, Jan. 24, 1787.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons of Great Britain, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to return your Majesty our humble thanks, for your most gracious speech from the throne; and to take the earliest opportunity of offering to your Majesty, in our own name, and in that of all the Commons of Great Britain, our most hearty congratulations on the preservation of a life so justly dear to your people; and to express our sense of the peculiar favour of Providence in averting the danger to which we were exposed, and rendering it only the occasion of manifesting, in the fullest manner, those sentiments of duty and affectionate attachment to your sacred person, which are deeply rooted in the hearts of all your Majesty's subjects.

We condole with your Majesty on the unfortunate death of that most illustrious and excellent Princess, your Majesty's aunt, the Princess Amelia.

It is with great satisfaction we learn, that the tranquillity of Europe remains uninterrupted; and, that your Majesty conti-

nues to receive assurances from all foreign powers of their friendly disposition towards this country. We are sensible of your Majesty's goodness in having directed the treaty of commerce and navigation with the most Christian King, and the convention agreed upon with the Catholic King, to be laid before us ; both these events, particularly a measure so important and extensive as a commercial arrangement between this country and France, must be highly interesting to us and our constituents, and it will afford us the truest satisfaction to concur in any measure calculated for the encouragement of industry, and the extension of lawful commerce, and which, by promoting a beneficial intercourse between the two countries, shall appear likely to give additional permanence to the blessings of peace.

Your Majesty may at all times rely on our readiness to make due provision for the several branches of the public service ; and the state of the revenue, so nearly connected with the national credit, and the safety and prosperity of your Majesty's dominions, will continue to engage our unremitting attention.

We shall not fail to take such measures as may be necessary for the transportation of convicts, in order to remedy the inconvenience which has arisen from the crowded state of the jails in different parts of the kingdom.

We shall diligently apply ourselves to the consideration of any regulations which can be adopted for the ease of the merchants, and for simplifying the public accounts in the various branches of the revenue ; and it will be equally our duty and inclination to use our utmost exertions in pursuit of such objects as may tend still farther to improve the national resources, and to second your Majesty's gracious and paternal wishes for the welfare and happiness of your people.

His Majesty's most gracious Answer.

Gentlemen,

I THANK you for this very loyal and dutiful address.

The warm expressions of your affectionate attachment to my person, and the assurances of your intention to apply with diligence to those interesting objects which I have recommended to your consideration, afford me peculiar satisfaction.

Joint

Joint Address of both Houses to his Majesty, March 6, 1787.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Lords spiritual and temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, having taken into our most serious consideration the provisions contained in the treaty of navigation and commerce concluded between your Majesty and the most Christian King, beg leave to approach your Majesty with our sincere and grateful acknowledgments, for this additional proof of your Majesty's constant attention to the welfare and happiness of your subjects. We shall proceed with all proper expedition in taking such steps as may be necessary for giving effect to a system so well calculated to promote a beneficial intercourse between Great Britain and France, and to give additional permanence to the blessings of peace.

It is our firm persuasion, that we cannot more effectually consult the general interest of our country, and the glory of your Majesty's reign, than by concurring in a measure which tends to the extension of trade, and the encouragement of industry and manufacture, the genuine sources of national wealth, and the surest foundation of the prosperity and happiness of your Majesty's dominions.

His Majesty's most gracious Answer.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I RETURN you my thanks for this loyal and dutiful address. The declaration of your sentiments, formed after the most serious consideration of the treaty of navigation and commerce between me and the most Christian King, affords me the truest satisfaction; and I receive with pleasure the assurances of your intention to proceed with all proper expedition in taking such steps as may be necessary for giving it effect.

Message from his Majesty, May 21, 1787.

GEORGE REX.

IT is with great concern his Majesty acquaints the House of Commons, that from the accounts which have been laid before his Majesty by the Prince of Wales, it appears that the Prince has incurred a debt to a large amount, which, if left to be discharged out of his annual income, would render it im-

possible for him to support an establishment suited to his rank and station.

Painful as it is at all times to his Majesty to propose an addition to the heavy expences necessarily borne by his people, his Majesty is induced, from his paternal affection to the Prince of Wales, to recur to the liberality and attachment of his faithful Commons for their assistance, on an occasion so interesting to his Majesty's feelings, and to the ease and honour of so distinguished a branch of his royal family.

His Majesty could not, however, expect or desire the assistance of this House, but on a well-grounded expectation that the Prince will avoid contracting any debts in future.

With a view to this object, and from an anxious desire to remove any possible doubt of the sufficiency of the Prince's income to support amply the dignity of his situation, his Majesty has directed a sum of 10,000*l.* per annum to be paid out of his civil list in addition to the allowance which his Majesty has hitherto given him; and his Majesty has the satisfaction to inform the House, that the Prince of Wales has given his Majesty the fullest assurance of his determination to confine his future expences within the income, and has also settled a plan for arranging those expences in the several departments, and for fixing an order for payment under such regulations as his Majesty trusts will effectually secure the due execution of the Prince's intentions.

His Majesty will direct an estimate to be laid before the House, of the sum wanting to complete, in a proper manner, the work which has been undertaken at Carleton house, as soon as the same can be prepared with sufficient accuracy, and recommends it to his faithful Commons to consider of making some provision for that purpose.

G. R.

His Majesty's most gracious Speech, May 30, 1787.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I CANNOT close this session of Parliament without expressing my entire approbation of the zeal and assiduity with which you have applied yourselves to the important objects which I recommended to your attention, and at the same time returning you my particular thanks for the proofs which you have given of your affection for me, and for my family and government.

The assurances which I receive from foreign powers of their good disposition to this country, and the continuance of the general tranquility of Europe, afford me great satisfaction; but

but dissensions unhappily prevail among the states of the United Provinces, which, as a friend and well-wisher to the Republic, I cannot see without the most real concern.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

The cheerfulness with which you have granted the necessary supplies, and the ample manner in which you have provided for the several establishments, demand my sincerest thanks.

I see with particular satisfaction that you have, at the same time, been able to furnish the sum annually appropriated to the reduction of the national debt without imposing any new burdens on my people.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I reflect with peculiar pleasure on the measures which you have taken for enabling me to carry into effect the treaty of navigation and commerce with the most Christian King, and for facilitating the collection, and simplifying the accounts of the various branches of the revenue, which, I trust, will be productive of the most beneficial effects. And I rely upon your using your best endeavours in your several counties to carry into effect the measures which have been taken for the prevention of illicit trade, and to promote good order and industry among every class of my subjects.

Then the Lord Chancellor, by his Majesty's command, said,

My Lords and Gentlemen,

IT is his Majesty's royal will and pleasure, that this Parliament will be prorogued to Tuesday, the 31st day of July next, to be then here holden; and this Parliament is accordingly prorogued to Tuesday, the 31st day of July next.

His Majesty's most gracious Speech, Nov. 27, 1787.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

AT the close of the last session I informed you of the concern with which I observed the disputes unhappily subsisting in the Republic of the United Provinces.

Their situation soon afterwards became more critical and alarming, and the danger which threatened their constitution and independence seemed likely in its consequences to affect the security and interests of my dominions.

No endeavours were wanting on my part to contribute, by my good offices, to the restoration of tranquillity, and the maintenance of the lawful government; and I also thought it necessary to explain my intention of counteracting all forcible interference on the part of France in the internal affairs of the Republic. Under these circumstances the King of Prussia having taken measures to enforce his demand of satisfaction for the insult offered to the Princess of Orange, the party, which had usurped the government of Holland, applied to the most Christian King for assistance, who notified to me his intention of granting their request.

In conformity to the principles which I had before explained, I did not hesitate, on receiving this notification, to declare, that I could not remain a quiet spectator of the armed interference of France, and I gave immediate orders for augmenting my forces both by sea and land.

In the course of these transactions I also thought proper to conclude a treaty with the Landgrave of Hesse Cassel, by which I secured the assistance of a considerable body of troops, in case my service should require it.

In the mean time the rapid success of the Prussian troops, under the conduct of the Duke of Brunswick, while it was the means of obtaining the reparation demanded by the King of Prussia, enabled the provinces to deliver themselves from the oppression under which they laboured, and to re-establish their lawful government.

All subjects of contest being thus removed, an amicable explanation took place between me and the most Christian King; and declarations have been exchanged by our respective ministers, by which we have agreed mutually to disarm, and to place our naval establishments on the same footing as in the beginning of the present year.

It gives me the greatest satisfaction that the important events which I have communicated to you have taken place, without disturbing my subjects in the enjoyment of the blessings of peace; and I have great pleasure in acquainting you, that I continue to receive, from all foreign powers, the fullest assurances of their pacific and friendly disposition towards this country. I must, at the same time, regret, that the tranquillity of one part of Europe is unhappily interrupted by the war which has broken out between Russia and the Porte.

A convention has been agreed upon between me and the most Christian King, explanatory of the 13th article of the last treaty of peace, and calculated to prevent jealousies and disputes between our respective subjects in the East Indies. I have ordered copies of the several treaties to which I have referred,
and

and of the declaration and counter-declaration exchanged at Versailles, to be laid before you.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I have ordered the estimates for the ensuing year to be laid before you, together with an account of the extraordinary expences which the situation of affairs rendered necessary.

I have the fullest reliance on your zeal and public spirit, that you will make due provision for the several branches of the public service. I am always desirous of confining those expences within the narrowest limits which a prudent regard to the public safety will permit; but I must, at the same time, recommend it to your particular attention to consider of the proper means for maintaining my distant possessions in an adequate posture of defence.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

The flourishing state of the commerce and revenue of this country cannot fail to encourage you in the pursuit of such measures as may confirm and improve so favourable a situation.

These circumstances must also render you peculiarly anxious for the continuance of public tranquillity, which it is my constant object to preserve.

I am, at the same time, persuaded that you will agree with me in thinking, that nothing can more effectually tend to secure so invaluable a blessing, than the zeal and unanimity which were shewn by all ranks of my subjects on the late occasion, and which manifested their readiness to exert themselves whenever the honour of my crown and the interests of my dominions may require it.

Address by the House of Peers to his Majesty, Nov. 27, 1787.

Most Gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Lords spiritual and temporal, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to return your Majesty our humble thanks for your most gracious speech from the throne.

We acknowledge with heart-felt gratitude your Majesty's constant regard to the interests of your people, which could not be more fully manifested than by your attention to the disputes lately subsisting in the Republic of the United Provinces.

The danger with which their constitution and independence were threatened, could not but affect in its probable consequences the security and interests of your Majesty's kingdoms.

We beg leave, therefore, humbly to express our highest approbation of your Majesty's just and wise determination, to counteract all forcible interference on the part of France in the internal affairs of the Republic; and we acknowledge in the fullest manner, the propriety and necessity of the declaration made by your Majesty, in conformity to these principles, when the intention of the most Christian King to assist the party, which had usurped the government of Holland, was notified to your Majesty. And we cannot but heartily applaud the wise and vigorous steps taken by your Majesty, for the augmentation of your forces by sea and land; measures which, while they prepared the country for the emergency which might arise, were the most likely to prolong the blessings of peace.

We learn with particular satisfaction the rapid success of the Prussian troops, under the auspicious conduct of his serene highness the Duke of Brunswick, which has obtained for his Prussian Majesty the just reparation which he demanded, and enabled the provinces to deliver themselves from the oppression under which they laboured, as well as to establish their ancient and lawful government.

The important events which have taken place, without disturbing your Majesty's subjects in the enjoyment of the blessings of peace, afford matter of cordial congratulation to your Majesty; and we are happy to see your Majesty enabled to enter into an agreement with the most Christian King for disarming, and placing the naval establishment of the two countries upon the same footing as in the beginning of the present year.

We beg leave to return our humble thanks to your Majesty for ordering the several treaties and conventions to be laid before this House, and to assure your Majesty that we shall see with satisfaction any arrangement calculated to prevent jealousies and disputes between your Majesty's subjects and those of the most Christian King in the East Indies.

Your Majesty may depend upon our concurrence in such measures as it may seem expedient to adopt, in consequence of the other engagements entered into by your Majesty, as well as such as may be necessary for placing your Majesty's distant possessions in an adequate posture of defence.

The flourishing state of the commerce and revenues afford us the highest satisfaction, and cannot fail to stimulate us to use our utmost endeavours to confirm and improve such important advantages, as well as to concur with your Majesty's paternal wishes for the continuation of the public tranquillity. We lament that hostilities should have broken out in any part of Europe; but we receive with satisfaction the information that
your

your Majesty continues to be assured of the pacific disposition of all foreign powers towards this country.

We reflect with pleasure on the zeal and unanimity shown by all ranks of your Majesty's subjects on the late occasion, as it must give more weight to the assurances we now humbly offer to your Majesty, that, with every wish to cultivate the blessings of peace, we shall be always ready to exert ourselves to the utmost, when the honour of your Majesty's crown, and the interests of your people may require it.

His Majesty's most gracious Answer.

My Lords,

I THANK you for this affectionate and loyal address. The satisfaction which you have unanimously expressed in the measures I have taken is particularly agreeable to me. You may depend, that both in war and peace, my constant objects shall be the honour of my crown, and the advancement of the interests of my people.

Address of the House of Commons to his Majesty, Nov. 28, 1787.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons of Great Britain, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to return your Majesty our humble thanks for your most gracious speech from the throne.

Your faithful Commons acknowledge with gratitude your Majesty's regard for the welfare and interests of your people, manifested by your attention to the disputes which unhappily subsisted in the Republic of the United Provinces, and by your endeavours to promote the restoration of their internal tranquillity, and the maintenance of their lawful government.

We are sensible that the danger which lately threatened the constitution and independence of the United Provinces was likely in its consequences to affect the security and interests of your Majesty's dominions; and we particularly applaud your Majesty's just determination to counteract all forcible interference on the part of France in the internal affairs of the Republic.

We feel, in the strongest manner, the propriety and necessity of the declaration made by your Majesty in conformity to those principles, when the intention of the Most Christian King was notified to your Majesty, as well as of the seasonable
and

and vigorous steps taken for the immediate augmentation of your Majesty's forces, both by sea and land.

The rapid and brilliant success of the Prussian arms, under the conduct of his serene highness the Duke of Brunswick, affords us matter of peculiar satisfaction, both as it was the means of obtaining the reparation demanded by the King of Prussia, and as it has enabled the provinces to deliver themselves from the oppression under which they laboured, and to re-establish their lawful government.

We cordially congratulate your Majesty on the important events which have taken place without disturbing your Majesty's subjects in the enjoyment of the blessings of peace, and which have enabled your Majesty to enter into an agreement with the Most Christian King for mutually disarming, and placing the naval establishments of the two countries on the same footing as in the beginning of the present year.

We are sensible of your Majesty's goodness in the communication of the several treaties and declarations which your Majesty has ordered to be laid before this House: we shall see with pleasure any arrangement properly calculated to prevent jealousies and disputes between your Majesty's subjects and those of the Most Christian King in the East Indies; and we shall proceed, without loss of time, to consider what steps it may be fit to take, in consequence of the other engagements entered into by your Majesty.

Your Majesty may be assured of our readiness to make such provision as may be necessary for defraying the extraordinary expences which have been incurred by your Majesty, and for carrying on the several branches of the current service.

We shall make it the object of our immediate attention to consider what measures it may be expedient to adopt for maintaining your Majesty's distant possessions in an adequate posture of defence; and we shall proceed with unremitting assiduity in the pursuit of measures which may tend to confirm and improve the favourable situation of affairs.

The flourishing state of the commerce and revenue of the country must make us concur with more peculiar earnestness in your Majesty's paternal wishes for the maintenance of the public tranquillity. On this account, while we see with concern the war which has unhappily broken out between Russia and the Porte, we have great satisfaction in learning that your Majesty continues to receive from all foreign powers the fullest assurances of their pacific disposition towards this country.

We are thoroughly sensible that nothing can more effectually tend to secure the invaluable blessings of peace, than the zeal and unanimity which was shewn by all ranks of your Ma-
jesty's

jeſty's ſubjects on the late occaſion, and which manifeſt their readineſs to exert themſelves whenever the honour of your Ma-jeſty's crown, and the intereſts of your dominions may require it.

His Maſteſty's moſt gracious Speech, July 11, 1788.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

IN the preſent advanced ſeaſon of the year, and after the laborious attendance which the public buſineſs has required of you, I think it neceſſary to put an end to the preſent ſeſſion of Parliament. I cannot do this without expreſſing the ſatiſfaction with which I have obſerved the uniform and diligent attention to the welfare of my people which has appeared in all your proceedings.

Gentlemen of the Houſe of Commons,

The cheerfulneſs and liberality with which you have granted the neceſſary ſupplies, demand my particular acknowledgments. It muſt afford you the greateſt ſatiſfaction that you have been enabled, without any addition to the burdens of my people, to provide for the extraordinary exigencies of the laſt year, in addition to the current demands of the public ſervice, and to the ſum annually appropriated to the reduction of the national debt.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I ſee with concern the continuance of the war between Ruſſia and the Porte, in which the Emperor has alſo taken a part. But the general ſtate of Europe, and the aſſurances which I receive from foreign powers, afford me every reaſon to expect that my ſubjects will continue to enjoy the bleſſings of peace.

The engagements which I have recently entered into with my good brother the King of Pruſſia, and thoſe with the States General of the United Provinces, which have already been communicated to you, are directed to this object, which I have uniformly in view; and they will, I truſt, be productive of the happieſt conſequences, in promoting the ſecurity and welfare of my own dominions, and in contributing to the general tranquillity of Europe.

Then

Then the Lord Chancellor, by his Majesty's command, said,
My Lords and Gentlemen,

IT is his Majesty's royal will and pleasure, that this Parliament be prorogued to Thursday, the twenty-fifth day of September next, to be then here holden; and this Parliament is accordingly prorogued to Thursday, the twenty-fifth day of September next.

House of Commons, Nov. 20, 1788.

THE Parliament having been, upon the 25th day of September last, prorogued to this day, a great number of members assembled in the House:

And it being understood, that in consequence of his Majesty's indisposition no orders had been received from his Majesty, with respect either to the holding or further proroguing the Parliament on this day—

Mr. Speaker of the House of Commons was called to the chair, and he took the chair accordingly.

Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer acquainted the House, that the state of his Majesty's health was such, as, for the present, made impossible for his Majesty's servants to receive his commands; in consequence of which the House was assembled without having had the usual notice, by proclamation, of a meeting for the dispatch of business, and without there appearing any regular authority either for the opening the session in the accustomed manner, or for farther proroguing the Parliament; and that under these circumstances, he should propose to the House, that at their rising this day, they should adjourn to this day fortnight.

It was then resolved that this House do adjourn till the 4th day of December next; when

Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer informed the House that they were again assembled in the same unhappy circumstances which he had been under the melancholy necessity of communicating at their last meeting, the continuance of his Majesty's illness still preventing any measures either for opening the session or proroguing the Parliament, and rendering it for the present, impossible for his Majesty personally to attend to any public business: that in this situation the privy council had thought it their duty to call before them his Majesty's physicians and examine them, on oath, concerning the state of his Majesty's health, a copy of which examination he had in his hand, That as he could in no other way give the House any
information

information equally accurate and authentic on this important subject; and as he had the permission and direction of the privy council to tender this paper to the House, he wished to know their pleasure as to the mode of communicating it; and if there appeared no objection in point of form, which he conceived there could not, he would propose to deliver it in at the table, and move that it might be read by the clerk, which was agreed to by the House; and the House then adjourned to the 8th of December next, when a committee was appointed to examine the physicians who had attended his Majesty, touching the state of his Majesty's health, and to report such examination to the House; which report being made,

On the 10th of December a committee was appointed, to examine and report precedents of such proceedings as may have been had in the case of the personal exercise of the royal authority being prevented or interrupted by infancy, sickness, infirmity, or otherwise, with a view to provide a remedy for the same; which report was made to the House on the 12th of December.

On the 16th of December the House resolved itself into a committee on the state of the nation; and the chairman of the said committee made the following report to the House on the 19th instant.

Resolved, That it appears to this committee, that his Majesty is prevented by his present indisposition from coming to his Parliament, and from attending to public business: and that the personal exercise of the royal authority by his Majesty is thereby, for the present, interrupted.

Resolved, That it is the opinion of this committee, that it is the right and duty of the Lords spiritual and temporal, and Commons of Great Britain, now assembled, and lawfully, fully, and freely representing all the estates of the people of this realm, to provide the means of supplying the defect of the personal exercise of the royal authority, arising from his Majesty's said indisposition, in such manner as the exigency of the case may seem to them to require.

Resolved, That it is the opinion of this committee, that for this purpose, and for maintaining entire the constitutional authority of the King, it is necessary that the said Lords spiritual and temporal, and Commons of Great Britain, should determine on the means whereby the royal assent may be given in Parliament to such bill as may be passed by the two Houses of Parliament respecting the exercise of the powers and authorities of the crown, in the name and on the behalf of the King, during the continuance of his Majesty's present indisposition.

Which

Which resolutions were sent to the House of Lords for their concurrence; and, in consequence of the indisposition, and afterwards the death, of the Right Hon. Charles Wolfran Cornwall, Speaker of the House of Commons, the report from the House of Peers was not received until the 5th of January, 1789, when the Marquis of Worcester reported that their Lordships had agreed to the same.

On the 19th of January the House resolved itself into a committee on the state of the nation, when the following resolutions were severally proposed and agreed to:

Resolved, That it is the opinion of this committee, that for the purpose of providing for the exercise of the King's royal authority during the continuance of his Majesty's illness, in such manner, and to such extent as the present circumstances of the urgent concerns of the nation appear to require, it is expedient that his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, being resident within the realm, shall be empowered to exercise and administer the royal authority according to the laws and constitution of Great Britain, in the name and on the behalf of his Majesty, under the style and title of Regent of the Kingdom, and to use, execute, and perform, in the name, and on the behalf of his Majesty, all authorities, prerogatives, acts of government, and administration of the same, which belong to the King of this realm, to use, execute, and perform according to the law thereof, subject to such limitations and exceptions as shall be provided.

Resolved, That it is the opinion of this committee, that the power so to be given to his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales shall not extend to the granting of any rank or dignity of the peerage of the realm to any person whatever, except to his Majesty's royal issue, who shall have attained the full age of twenty-one years.

Resolved, That it is the opinion of this committee, that the said powers should not extend to the granting of any office whatever in reversion, or to the granting of any office, salary, or pension, for any other term than during his Majesty's pleasure, except such offices as are by law required to be granted for life, or during good behaviour.

Resolved, That it is the opinion of this committee, that the said powers should not extend to the granting of any part of his Majesty's real or personal estate, except so far as relates to the renewal of leases.

Resolved, That it is the opinion of this committee, that the care of his Majesty's royal person, during the continuance of his Majesty's illness, should be committed to the Queen's most excellent

excellent Majesty, and that her Majesty should have power to remove from, and to nominate and appoint such persons as she shall think proper to the several offices in his Majesty's household, and to dispose, order, and manage all other matters and things relating to the care of his Majesty's royal person during the time aforesaid: and that for the better enabling her Majesty to discharge this important trust, it is also expedient that a council should be appointed, to advise and assist her Majesty in the several matters aforesaid, and with power, from time to time, as they may see cause, to examine, upon oath, the physicians and others attending his Majesty's person, touching the state of his Majesty's health, and all matters relative thereto.

The above resolutions received the concurrence of the House of Lords on the 28th of January; and were ordered to be presented to her Majesty and to the Prince of Wales, with an humble address—"That they will be graciously pleased to undertake the important trust proposed to be invested in them, as soon as an act of Parliament shall have been passed for carrying the said resolutions into effect."

Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer, on the 2d of February, reported to the House, that the Prince of Wales had been waited on with their resolutions and address, to which he had been pleased to make the following answer:

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I thank you for communicating to me the resolutions agreed to by the two Houses, and I request you to assure them, in my name, that my duty to the King my father, and my anxious concern for the safety and interests of the people, which must be endangered by a longer suspension of the exercise of the royal authority, together with my respect for the united desires of the two Houses, outweigh in my mind every other consideration; and will determine me to undertake the weighty and important trust proposed to me. I am sensible of the difficulties that must attend the execution of this trust, in the peculiar circumstances in which it is committed to my charge, of which, as I am acquainted with no former example, my hope of a successful administration cannot be founded on any past experience. But considering that the limitations on the exercise of the royal authority, deemed necessary for the present, have been approved by the two Houses only as a temporary measure, founded on the loyal hope, in which I ardently participate, that his Majesty's disorder may not be of long duration; and

trusting,

trusting, in the mean while, that I shall receive a zealous and united support in the two Houses and in the nation, proportioned to the difficulties attending the discharge of my trust in this interval, I will entertain the pleasing hope, that my faithful endeavours to preserve the interests of the King, his crown, and people, may be successful.

And that her Majesty had also been attended with their resolution and address, and that she had been pleased to say :

“ My duty and gratitude to the King, and the sense I must ever entertain of my great obligations to this country, will certainly engage my most earnest attention to the anxious and momentous trust intended to be reposed in me by Parliament. It will be a great consolation to me to receive the aid of a council, of which I shall stand so much in need, in the discharge of a duty wherein the happiness of my future life is, indeed, deeply interested, but which a higher object, the happiness of a great, loyal, and affectionate people, renders still more important.”

On the 2d of February, a message was delivered from the House of Lords, desiring the concurrence of the Commons to the following resolutions, viz.

That it is expedient and necessary, that letters patent should pass under the great seal of Great Britain, of the tenor and in the form following :

George the Third, by the grace of God, of Great Britain, France, and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, and so forth : To all to whom these presents shall come, greeting : Whereas we have lately, for divers difficult and pressing affairs, concerning us and the state and defence of our kingdom of Great Britain, and the church, ordained this our present Parliament to begin and to be held at our city of Westminster, on the 18th day of May, in the twenty-fourth year of our reign, on which day our Parliament was begun and held, and from thence, by several adjournments and prorogations, was adjourned and prorogued to and until Thursday, the 20th day of November last, then to be held and sit at our city of Westminster aforesaid : and forasmuch as, for certain causes, we cannot conveniently be present in our royal person in our said Parliament, know ye, that we, trusting in the discretion, fidelity, and care, of the most reverend Father in God, and our faithful counsellor, John, Archbishop of Canterbury, primate and metropolitan of all England ; our well-beloved and faithful counsellor, Edward, Lord Thurlow, Lord Chancellor of Great Britain,

Britain; our most dear cousins and counsellors, Charles Earl Camden, President of our Council; Granville Marquis of Stafford, Keeper of our Privy Seal; James Duke of Chandos, Steward of our Household; Charles Duke of Richmond; George Duke of Montagu; James Earl of Salisbury, Chamberlain of our Household; John Earl of Chatham; Henry Earl of Bathurst; Thomas Viscount Weymouth; Francis Lord Osborne, one of our principal Secretaries of State; Thomas Lord Sydney, another of our principal Secretaries of State; and Lloyd Lord Kenyon, our Chief Justice assigned to hold pleas before us, by the advice of the Lords spiritual and temporal, and Commons, assembled according to the prorogation aforesaid, do give and grant, by the tenor of these presents, unto the most reverend Father in God, John Archbishop of Canterbury, &c. and any three of them, full power in our name to hold our said Parliament, and to open and declare, and cause to be opened and declared, the causes of holding the same, and to proceed upon the said affairs in our said Parliament, and in all matters arising therein, and to do every thing which, for us, and by us, for the government of our said kingdom of Great Britain, and other dominions thereunto belonging, shall be there to be done, commanding also, by the tenor of these presents, with the advice aforesaid, as well all and singular the archbishops, dukes, marquesses, earls, viscounts, bishops, barons, knights, citizens, burgesses, and commissioners, for our counties and boroughs, as all others whom it concerns, to meet in our said Parliament; that to the same the most reverend Father in God, and our faithful counsellor, John Archbishop of Canterbury, &c. and any three of them, they diligently intend in the premises, in the form aforesaid. In witness whereof, we have caused these our letters to be made patent.

Witness ourself at Westminster, this 3d day of February, in the twenty-ninth year of our reign: by the King himself, with the advice of the Lords spiritual and temporal, and Commons assembled, according to the prorogation aforesaid.

The above resolution was agreed to by the House of Commons, and on the 2d of February the new Speaker (the Right Hon. William Wyndham Grenville) desired to call the attention of the House to a circumstance respecting his own situation, as possibly the House might, to-morrow, be desired to attend the commissioners to be authorised by his Majesty's commission for opening the session of Parliament: he said, that after the election of a Speaker, it had been the usage of Parliament for the House to present the Speaker to his Majesty,

or his Majesty's commissioners, for the royal approbation, at which time the Speaker (being approved) requested his Majesty's gracious indulgence for any omissions of his in the execution of his office; and, if it was at the beginning of a Parliament, did also, on behalf of the Commons, lay claim to their ancient rights and privileges; but if the election of the Speaker was in the middle of a Parliament, the Speaker was presented for the royal approbation, but the claim on behalf of the House was omitted. Mr. Speaker added, that in the present case he had received no directions from the House for his conduct in this respect, and that it was his intention to follow the precedents of the Restoration and the Revolution, in which cases the Speaker was not presented for the royal approbation; but he further added, that if the House thought proper to give him any special directions, it would be his duty to obey them.

On the 3d of February the Speaker reported to the House the speech of Earl Bathurst (one of the commissioners appointed under the great seal of Great Britain for opening and holding the Parliament) in the House of Peers, which was as follows:

My Lords and Gentlemen,

IN pursuance of the authority given us by his Majesty's commission under the great seal, which has been now read, amongst other things, to declare the causes of your present meeting, we have only to call your attention to the melancholy circumstance of his Majesty's illness, in consequence of which it becomes necessary to provide for the care of his Majesty's royal person, and for the administration of the royal authority, during the continuance of this calamity, in such manner as the exigency of the case appears to require.

On the 19th of February, the Lord Chancellor rose in the House of Peers, and observed, that it was not without the utmost pleasure he felt it in his power to inform the House, that, since his Majesty's physicians had pronounced him to be in a state of *convalescence*, the accounts of his progressive improvement had daily increased, and the recent intelligence from Kew was so favourable, that he conceived every noble Lord would agree with him in acknowledging, that it would be indecent to go on with the proceedings in which they were engaged under the present circumstances, when the principle of the bill might possibly be entirely done away. Every one of their Lordships, he was persuaded, would entertain the same senti-

sentiment on the same subject, and amidst the general joy which the happy and reasonable expectation of his Majesty's speedy return must occasion, he had no doubt that the House would consider it as absolutely necessary to wait a few days, and until a fuller ascertainment of the nature of the progress towards a perfect and complete recovery in his Majesty's health, before they went farther with the bill appointing a regency. Congratulating their Lordships and the country, therefore, on the favourable prospect of that event, to which the wishes and prayers of all his Majesty's subjects were directed, he would humbly submit to their Lordships the propriety of the committee's being adjourned until the immediately ensuing Tuesday.

On Tuesday the 24th of February, the Lord Chancellor having premised, that every statement, allusive to the strongest probability of the speedily approaching recovery of his Majesty, warranted his presuming, that the same reasons which before actuated their Lordships, and induced them to adjourn on the preceding Tuesday, would prevail for a further delay, moved to adjourn until the Monday following.

On Monday the 2d of March, the Lord Chancellor observed, that as the state of his Majesty's health became daily more and more favourable, and as it was necessary for its perfect re-establishment, that the pressure of public business should come upon him as gradually as possible, he should move that the House do adjourn to the ensuing Thursday.

On Thursday the 5th of March, the Lord Chancellor having previously remarked, that their Lordships had adjourned on the preceding Monday, and indeed delayed entering upon the order which had been just read, from time to time, under the idea that it was proper to afford his Majesty as much space for recovery before he engaged in business, as could be consistent with the pressure of public affairs, added, that subsequently to their last adjournment, his Majesty found his health so much better established, that he was in hopes of communicating to that House, on Tuesday next, such other public business as was necessary to be laid before them for their consideration and dispatch: he should therefore move, that the order be farther adjourned to the Tuesday following.

The House accordingly adjourned until the 10th of March, when the Lord Chancellor spoke as follows:

My Lords and Gentlemen,

HIS Majesty, not thinking fit to be present here this day, in his royal person, has been pleased to cause a commission to be issued under his great seal, authorising and commanding the commissioners who are appointed by former letters patent to hold this Parliament, to open and declare certain further causes for holding the same; which commission you will now hear read.

The commission was then read; after which his Lordship delivered the following message from his Majesty:

My Lords and Gentlemen,

IN obedience to his Majesty's commands, and by virtue of both commissions already mentioned to you, (one of which has now been read) we proceed to lay before you such further matters as his Majesty has judged proper to be now communicated to his Parliament.

His Majesty being, by the blessing of Providence, happily recovered from the severe indisposition with which he has been afflicted, and being enabled to attend to the public affairs of his kingdoms, has commanded us to convey to you his warmest acknowledgments for the additional proofs which you have given of your affectionate attachment to his person, and of your zealous concern for the honour and interests of his crown, and the security and good government of his dominions.

The interruption which has necessarily been occasioned to the public business will, his Majesty doubts not, afford you an additional incitement to apply yourselves, with as little delay as possible, to the different objects of national concern which require your attention.

His Majesty has likewise ordered us to acquaint you, that since the close of the last session he has concluded a treaty of defensive alliance with his good brother the King of Prussia, copies of which will be laid before you: that his Majesty's endeavours were employed, during the last summer, in conjunction with his allies, in order to prevent, as much as possible, the extension of hostilities in the North, and to manifest his desire of effecting a general pacification: that no opportunity will be neglected, on his part, to promote this salutary object; and that he has, in the mean time, the satisfaction of receiving, from all foreign courts, continued assurances of their friendly dispositions to this country.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

We are commanded by his Majesty to acquaint you, that the estimates for the current year will shortly be laid before you;

you ; and that he is persuaded of your readiness to make the necessary provisions for the several branches of the public service

My Lords and Gentlemen,

We have it particularly in charge from his Majesty to assure you, that you cannot so effectually meet the most earnest wish of his Majesty's heart, as by persevering in your uniform exertions for the public welfare, and by improving every occasion to promote the prosperity of his faithful people, from whom his Majesty has received such repeated and affecting marks of inviolable zeal, loyalty, and attachment, and whose happiness he must ever consider as inseparable from his own.

Address of the House of Lords to his Majesty, March 10, 1789.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Lords spiritual and temporal, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to approach your throne, and return you our most humble thanks for the gracious speech which your Majesty has commanded to be made to both Houses of Parliament.

We most sincerely congratulate your Majesty on your happy recovery from your late indisposition ; and upon your being again enabled to attend to the urgent concerns of your kingdoms, and to exercise personally your royal authority.

We acknowledge, with all possible thankfulness, the goodness of Almighty God in attending to the prayers of a loyal, affectionate, and afflicted people, and in restoring your Majesty to the wishes of your faithful subjects ; and we most earnestly hope that the blessing of your Majesty's just and benevolent government may long be continued to us.

We humbly offer to your Majesty our most sincere expressions of gratitude for your gracious acceptance of our best endeavours to prove our zealous and affectionate attachment to your person, and our anxious concern for the honour and interest of your crown, and the security and good government of your dominions.

Your Majesty may be assured that we will, without delay, apply ourselves to the consideration of the different objects of national concern which require our attention.

We most humbly thank your Majesty for the orders which you have been graciously pleased to give for laying before this House a copy of the treaty of defensive alliance which your Majesty has concluded with the King of Prussia,

We are sensible that your Majesty's endeavours, in conjunction with your allies, to prevent as much as possible the extension of hostilities in the north of Europe, and to contribute to the restoration of general tranquillity, are the natural result of your Majesty's known wisdom and humanity ; and we have a full reliance on the continuance of your exertions towards promoting so salutary an object.

We hear with satisfaction that your Majesty continues to receive from all foreign courts the strongest assurances of their friendly disposition towards this country.

We are conscious, Sire, that we ensure ourselves the approbation of your Majesty, when we attend to the public welfare, and to the advancement of the prosperity of your people, whose zeal, loyalty, and attachment to your Majesty, are the natural and spontaneous effects of their uniform experience of your Majesty's virtues, and of the constant blessings derived from your mild and auspicious government.

His Majesty's most gracious Answer.

My Lords,

THIS very dutiful and affectionate address calls forth my warmest thanks ; the sentiments expressed in it have so universally prevailed among my loving subjects, that they must, if possible, increase my solicitude for the prosperity and happiness of this my native country.

Address of the House of Commons to his Majesty, Mar. 11, 1789.

Most Gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons of Great Britain, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to return your Majesty our humble thanks for the speech which has been delivered by your Majesty's command to both Houses of Parliament ; and to congratulate your Majesty on the happy event of your Majesty's recovery from your late indisposition, and on your being enabled to attend to the public affairs of your kingdoms.

We acknowledge with the most heart-felt joy and gratitude, the goodness of Almighty God, in restoring your Majesty to the wishes and prayers of your faithful subjects ; and earnestly hope that your Majesty may long continue to rule over an affectionate and grateful people.

Permit

Permit us to lay before your Majesty our dutiful acknowledgments for the favourable sense which your Majesty entertains of our affectionate attachment to your Majesty's person, and of our concern for the honour and interest of your crown, and the security and good government of your dominions.

It will be our constant endeavour to merit your Majesty's good opinion, by labouring to promote the happiness of your people; and we will apply ourselves, with as little delay as possible, to the different objects of national concern which require our attention.

We beseech your Majesty to accept our humble thanks for being graciously pleased to order a copy of the treaty of defensive alliance between your Majesty and the King of Prussia to be laid before us, and to be assured that we are deeply sensible of your Majesty's just regard to the interests of your subjects, and the peace of Europe, in your endeavours to prevent the extension of hostilities in the north, and your desire to effect a general pacification. We learn with great satisfaction that your Majesty continues to receive assurances of the favourable disposition of the other courts of Europe towards this country.

We shall not fail to proceed with cheerfulness and dispatch to make the necessary provision for the several branches of the public service.

We should be wanting to ourselves and to those whom we represent, if we did not testify, in the warmest manner, the gratitude with which we observe the paternal expressions of your Majesty's regard for the happiness of your people, whose inviolable sentiments of zeal, loyalty, and attachment to your Majesty are animated and confirmed by the uniform experience of your Majesty's virtues, and by the sense of the blessings which they enjoy under your Majesty's auspicious government.

His Majesty's most gracious Answer.

Gentlemen,

I THANK you most cordially for this loyal and dutiful address.

Your warm expressions of congratulation, and the signal proofs which I have repeatedly received of the sincere and affectionate attachment of my faithful Commons, and of the nation at large, have made an impression on my mind which no time will ever efface.

On the 8th of April, 1789, both Houses of Parliament were acquainted,

THAT his Majesty had appointed Thursday, the 23d of this instant April, to be observed as a day of public thanksgiving to Almighty God, for that signal interposition of his good Providence, which had removed from his Majesty the late illness with which he had been afflicted; and, for the greater solemnity of that day, his Majesty would go to St. Paul's to return thanks to Almighty God for the great mercy which had been extended to him. And motions were made and carried in both Houses, to attend his Majesty to St. Paul's on the 23d instant, being the day appointed for a general thanksgiving.

House of Commons, June 5, 1789.

MR. Chancellor of the Exchequer acquainted the House, that his Majesty having taken notice that the seat in Parliament of the Right Hon. William Wyndham Grenville, late Speaker of this House, was become vacant by his acceptance of the office of one of his Majesty's principal Secretaries of State, had commanded him to say, that in order that there may be no delay in public business, his Majesty gives leave to this House to proceed to the choice of a new Speaker; and that it is his Majesty's pleasure that this House should present their Speaker on Tuesday next, at two of the clock in the afternoon, in the House of Peers, for his royal approbation.

On Tuesday, June 9th, the Right Hon. Henry Addington, the new Speaker of the House of Commons, acquainted the House that they had attended his Majesty in the House of Peers, where his Majesty had been pleased to approve the choice they had made of him to be their Speaker.

Speech of the Lord Chancellor, by his Majesty's Command, on closing the Session of Parliament, August 11, 1789.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

WE have it in command from his Majesty to express to you the satisfaction with which his Majesty has observed the continued proofs which you have given during the present session, of your uniform attention to the public business, and of your zealous concern for the honour and interests of his crown, and the welfare and prosperity of his people.

Gen-

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

His Majesty has particularly directed us to return you his thanks for the readiness with which you have granted the necessary supplies for the several branches of the public service.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

Although the good offices of his Majesty and his allies have not hitherto been effectual for restoring the general tranquillity of Europe, he has the satisfaction of seeing that the further extension of hostilities has been prevented, and that the situation of affairs continues to promise to this country the uninterrupted enjoyment of the blessings of peace.

Then the Lord Chancellor, by his Majesty's command, said,

My Lords and Gentlemen,

IT is his Majesty's royal will and pleasure that this Parliament be prorogued to Thursday, the 29th day of October next, to be then here holden; and this Parliament is accordingly prorogued to Thursday, the 29th day of October next.

His Majesty's most gracious Speech, Jan. 21, 1790.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

SINCE I last met you in Parliament, the continuance of the war on the continent, and the internal condition of different parts of Europe, have been productive of events which have engaged my most serious attention.

While I see with a just concern the interruption of the tranquillity of other countries, I have at the same time great satisfaction in being able to acquaint you that I receive continued assurances of the good disposition of all foreign powers towards these kingdoms; and I am persuaded that you will entertain with me a deep and grateful sense of the favour of Providence, in continuing to my subjects the increasing advantages of peace, and the uninterrupted enjoyment of those invaluable blessings which they have so long derived from our excellent constitution.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I have given directions that the estimates for the present year should be laid before you, and I rely on your readiness to grant such supplies as the circumstances of the several branches of the public service may require.

My

My Lords and Gentlemen,

The regulations prescribed by the act of the last session of Parliament, relative to the corn trade, not having been carried into effect in several parts of the kingdom, there appeared reason to apprehend that such an exportation of corn might take place, and such difficulty occur in the importation of foreign corn, as would have been productive of the most serious inconvenience to my subjects. Under these circumstances it appeared indispensably necessary to take immediate measures for preventing the exportation, and facilitating the importation of certain sorts of corn; and I therefore, by the advice of my privy council, issued an order for that purpose, a copy of which I have directed to be laid before you.

I have only further to desire that you will continue to apply yourselves to those objects which may require your attention, with the same zeal for the public service which has hitherto appeared in all your proceedings, and of which the effects have been so happily manifested in the increase of the public revenue, the extension of the commerce and manufactures of the country, and the general prosperity of my people.

Address by the House of Lords to his Majesty, Jan. 22, 1790,

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Lords spiritual and temporal, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to return your Majesty our humble thanks for your most gracious speech from the throne.

We are sensible of the importance of the events produced by the continuance of the war on the continent, and the internal situation of different parts of Europe, which have naturally attracted your Majesty's most serious attention.

We beg leave to assure your Majesty, that while we see with a just concern the interruption of the tranquillity of other countries, we feel the truest satisfaction from the assurances your Majesty has been graciously pleased to give us of the good disposition manifested by all foreign powers towards these kingdoms; and that we entertain with your Majesty a deep and grateful sense of the favour of Providence, in continuing to these kingdoms the increasing advantages of peace, and the uninterrupted enjoyment of those invaluable blessings which your Majesty's most faithful subjects have so long derived from our excellent constitution.

We

We return your Majesty our dutiful thanks for the communication which your Majesty has been pleased to make to us of the reasons which induced your Majesty to take such immediate measures as appeared indispensably necessary for preventing the exportation and facilitating the importation of corn; and for your Majesty's gracious condescension in directing to be laid before this House a copy of the order which your Majesty, by the advice of your privy council, thought proper to issue for that purpose.

Permit us, Sir, to offer your Majesty our humble acknowledgments for the gracious approbation which your Majesty is pleased to declare of our former conduct, and to give your Majesty the strongest assurances, that, animated by the same zeal for the public service which has hitherto directed our proceedings, and gratefully acknowledging the happiness and security which we experience under your Majesty's auspicious government, we will diligently continue to apply ourselves to those objects which may require our attention, and may best contribute to the maintenance of the public revenue, the extension of the commerce and manufactures of the country, and the general prosperity of these kingdoms.

His Majesty's most gracious Answer.

My Lords,

I RECEIVE with great pleasure your dutiful and loyal addresses.

The first object of my wishes being the prosperity of my people, I cannot but express my satisfaction at receiving such strong assurances of your disposition to apply your attention to those important objects which I have recommended to your consideration.

Address by the House of Commons to his Majesty, Jan. 23, 1790.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the the Commons of Great Britain, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to return your Majesty our humble thanks for your most gracious speech from the throne.

While we participate in the just concern with which your Majesty observes the interruption of the tranquillity of other countries, we feel, at the same time, the greatest satisfaction in being informed that your Majesty continues to receive as-

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surances of the friendly disposition of foreign powers: and we entertain a deep and grateful sense of the favour of Providence towards these kingdoms, in continuing to us the increasing advantages of peace, and the uninterrupted enjoyment of those invaluable blessings which we have so long derived from our excellent constitution, and which we so happily experience under your Majesty's mild and auspicious government.

Your Majesty may be assured that we shall proceed with cheerfulness to make such provision as may appear to be requisite for the several branches of the public service.

We are duly sensible of your Majesty's paternal regard for the welfare of your people, which has been manifested in your anxiety to prevent the farther exportation of corn, and to facilitate the importation under the circumstances which your Majesty has been graciously pleased to communicate to us; and we desire humbly to return our thanks to your Majesty for having been pleased to direct a copy of the order, issued by your Majesty, by the advice of your privy council, to be laid before us.

We assure your Majesty, that we shall uniformly continue to apply ourselves, with unremitting assiduity and zeal, to those objects of public concern which may require our attention, and shall be, at all times, desirous of adopting every proper measure for maintaining the public revenue, and encouraging the commerce and manufactures of the country, as being essentially connected with the general prosperity of your Majesty's dominions.

His Majesty's most gracious Answer.

Gentlemen,

I THANK you for your very loyal and dutiful address; it is with great satisfaction that I receive the repeated expressions of your affectionate attachment, and the assurances of your continued attention to those objects which are connected with the happiness and prosperity of my people.

Message from his Majesty to both Houses of Parliament, May 5, 1790.

GEORGE REX.

HIS Majesty has received information, that two vessels belonging to his Majesty's subjects, and navigated under the British flag, and two others, of which the description is not hitherto sufficiently ascertained, have been captured at Nootka Sound, on the north-western coast of America, by an officer commanding two Spanish ships of war; that the cargoes of the British vessels have been seized, and that their officers and crews have been sent as prisoners to a Spanish port.

The capture of one of these vessels had before been notified by the ambassador of the Catholic King, by order of his court, who, at the same time, desired that measures might be taken for preventing his Majesty's subjects from frequenting those coasts, which were alledged to have been previously occupied and frequented by the subjects of Spain: complaints were also made of the fisheries carried on by his Majesty's subjects, in the seas adjoining to the Spanish continent, as being contrary to the rights of the crown of Spain. In consequence of this communication, a demand was immediately made, by his Majesty's order, for adequate satisfaction, and for the restitution of the vessel, previous to any other discussion.

By the answer from the Court of Spain it appears, that this vessel and her crew had been set at liberty by the viceroy of Mexico, but this is represented to have been done by him on the supposition that nothing but the ignorance of the rights of Spain encouraged the individuals of other nations to come to those coasts for the purpose of making establishments or carrying on trade, and in conformity to his previous instructions, requiring him to shew all possible regard to the British nation.

No satisfaction is made or offered, and a direct claim is asserted by the Court of Spain to the exclusive rights of sovereignty, navigation, and commerce, in the territories, coasts, and seas, in that part of the world.

His Majesty has now directed his minister at Madrid to make a fresh representation on this subject, and to claim such full and adequate satisfaction as the nature of the case evidently requires; and, under these circumstances, his Majesty having also received information that considerable armaments are carrying on in the ports of Spain, has judged it indispensably necessary to give orders for making such preparations as may put it in his Majesty's power to act with vigour and effect

in support of the honour of his crown, and the interests of his people. And his Majesty recommends it to his faithful Commons, on whose zeal and public spirit he has the most perfect reliance, to enable him to take such measures, and to make such augmentations of his forces as may be eventually necessary for this purpose.

It is his Majesty's earnest wish that the justice of his Majesty's demands may ensue, from the wisdom and equity of his Catholic Majesty, the satisfaction which is so unquestionably due; and that this affair may be terminated in such a manner as to prevent any grounds of misunderstanding in future, and to continue and confirm that harmony and friendship which has so happily subsisted between the two courts, and which his Majesty will always endeavour to maintain and improve by all such means as are consistent with the dignity of his Majesty's crown, and the essential interests of his subjects.

G. R.

Resolved by the House of Lords, May 5, 1790,

THAT an humble address be presented to his Majesty, thanking him for his gracious message, acquainting this House of those circumstances relative to the capture of British vessels on the north-western coast of America, and to the conduct of the Court of Spain, on this occasion, which have induced his Majesty to give orders for making such preparations as may put it in his Majesty's power to act with vigour and effect in support of the honour of his Majesty's crown and of the interests of his people, and to assure his Majesty that we shall readily proceed to enable his Majesty to take such measures, and to make such augmentation of his Majesty's forces, as may eventually be necessary on this occasion.

That we trust that the justice of his Majesty's demands will ensue, from the wisdom and equity of his Catholic Majesty, the satisfaction which is so unquestionably due to his Majesty; and that we shall sincerely rejoice in such a termination of the discussions now depending, as may prevent any grounds of misunderstanding in future, and may continue and confirm that harmony and friendship which has happily subsisted between Great Britain and Spain; but that *we*, at the same time, feel it our indispensable duty to assure his Majesty of the determination of this House to afford his Majesty the most zealous and effectual support in such measures as may become requisite for maintaining the dignity of his Majesty's crown,

crown, and the essential interests of his Majesty's dominions.

Resolved by the House of Commons, May 6, 1790,

THAT an humble address be presented to his Majesty, to return his Majesty the thanks of this House for his most gracious message, acquainting this House of those circumstances relative to the capture of British vessels on the north-western coast of America, and to the conduct of the Court of Spain on this occasion, which have induced his Majesty to give orders for making such preparations as may put it in his Majesty's power to act with vigour and effect, in support of the honour of his Majesty's crown and of the interests of his people; and to assure his Majesty that we shall readily proceed to enable his Majesty to take such measures and to make such augmentation of his Majesty's forces as may eventually be necessary on this occasion.

That we trust that the justice of his Majesty's demands will ensure, from the wisdom and equity of his Catholic Majesty, the satisfaction which is so unquestionably due to his Majesty; and that we shall sincerely rejoice in such a termination of the discussions now depending, as may prevent any grounds of misunderstanding in future, and may continue and confirm that harmony and friendship which has happily subsisted between Great Britain and Spain; but that we, at the same time, feel it our indispensable duty to assure his Majesty of the determination of his faithful Commons to afford his Majesty the most zealous and effectual support in such measures as may become requisite for maintaining the dignity of his Majesty's crown, and the essential interests of his Majesty's dominions.

His Majesty's most gracious Answer.

HIS Majesty receives, with great satisfaction, the assurances of support from his faithful Commons, which must tend to produce the most salutary consequences in the present conjuncture.

Speech of Mr. Speaker to his Majesty, June 10, 1790.

Sire,

YOUR faithful Commons have now completed the supplies requisite for the service of the current year; they have manifested their loyalty and their attachment to your Majesty's person and government, by their uniform attention and diligent exertion in passing such bills as were most likely to conduce to the honour and dignity of your Majesty's crown, and have, in all their proceedings, shewn the spirit of a great, a powerful, and a free people.

Your Majesty's Commons cannot but contemplate with peculiar satisfaction the growing produce of the revenue, the rapid progress of our manufactures, and the general increase of commerce and trade; circumstances affording the most flattering proofs of the prosperity of the country, in which they have no doubt of your Majesty's participating with them, and in the satisfaction that must arise by the contemplation of such objects.

Your Majesty's Commons are well aware that the principal cause, among many others, to which these great national benefits are to be ascribed, is the continuance of peace; but, sensible as they are of these blessings, and anxiously desirous of rendering them permanent, they have, by an unanimous vote, lately afforded your Majesty a substantial proof that peace ought not to be maintained but on such terms as shall be strictly consistent with the honour of your Majesty's crown, and the interests and welfare of your Majesty's subjects.

His Majesty's most gracious Speech, June 10, 1790.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

THE necessary public business being now concluded, I think it right to put an end to this session of Parliament.

I have not hitherto received the answer of the Court of Spain to the representation which I have directed to be made at that court, in support of the dignity of my crown, and of the interests of my people. I continue to entertain the strongest desire for the maintenance of peace on just and honourable grounds; but under the present circumstances, I feel it indispensably necessary to proceed with expedition and vigour
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in those preparations, the objects of which have already received your unanimous concurrence.

The assurances and conduct of my allies on this interesting occasion have manifested, in the most satisfactory manner, their determination to fulfil the engagements of the existing treaties; and I trust that our mutual good understanding and concert will be productive of the happiest effects in the present conjuncture of affairs in Europe.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I return you my particular thanks for the readiness with which you granted the supplies for the current service, and for your unanimity and dispatch in enabling me to take those measures which the present crisis has rendered necessary.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

As I think it may be of material convenience that the election of a new Parliament should take place without delay, it is my intention forthwith to give directions for dissolving the present and for calling a new Parliament. But in signifying to you this intention, I cannot omit to assure you of the deep and grateful sense which I must ever entertain of that affectionate and unshaken loyalty, that uniform and zealous regard for the true principles of our invaluable constitution, and that unremitting attention to the happiness and prosperity of my people, which have invariably directed all your proceedings.

The rapid increase of our manufactures, commerce, and navigation, the additional protection and security afforded to the distant possessions of the empire, the provisions for the good government of India, the improvement of the public revenue, and the establishment of a permanent system for the gradual reduction of the national debt, have furnished the best proofs of your resolution in encountering the difficulties with which you had to contend, and of your steadiness and perseverance in those measures which were best adapted to promote the essential and lasting interests of my dominions.

The loyalty and public spirit, the industry and enterprize of my subjects, have seconded your exertions. On their sense of the advantages which they at present experience, as well as on their uniform and affectionate attachment to my person and government, I rely for a continuance of that harmony and confidence, the happy effects of which have so manifestly appeared during the present Parliament, and which must at all times afford the surest means of meeting the exigencies of war, or of cultivating, with increasing benefit, the blessings of peace.

Then the Lord Chancellor, by his Majesty's command, said,

My Lords and Gentlemen,

IT is his Majesty's royal will and pleasure, that this Parliament be prorogued to Tuesday, the 3d day of August next, to be then here holden; and this Parliament is accordingly prorogued to Tuesday, the 3d day of August next.

Speech of the Lord Chancellor to the House of Commons, Nov. 25, 1790.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

HIS Majesty has been pleased to command me to acquaint you, that he will defer declaring the causes of calling this Parliament until there shall be a Speaker of the House of Commons: and, therefore, it is his Majesty's pleasure that you,

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

Do immediately repair to the place where the Commons usually sit, and there choose a fit person to be your Speaker; and that you present such person who shall be so chosen to his Majesty here, for his royal approbation, to-morrow, at two o'clock.

Nov. 26, 1790.

MR. Speaker (Addington) reported, that the House had been in the House of Peers, where his Majesty had been pleased to approve of the choice the House had made of him to be their Speaker.

His Majesty's most gracious Speech, Nov. 26, 1790.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

IT is a great satisfaction to me to inform you, that the differences which had arisen between me and the Court of Spain have happily been brought to an amicable termination.

I have ordered copies of the declarations exchanged between my ambassador and the minister of the Catholic King, and of the Convention which has since been concluded, to be laid before you.

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The objects which I have proposed to myself in the whole of this transaction have been to obtain a suitable reparation for the act of violence committed at Nootka, and to remove the grounds of similar disputes in future, as well as to secure to my subjects the exercise of their navigation, commerce, and fisheries, in those parts of the world which were the subject of discussion.

The zeal and public spirit manifested by all ranks of my subjects, and the disposition and conduct of my allies, had left me no room to doubt of the most vigorous and effectual support; but no event could have afforded me so much satisfaction as the attainment of the objects which I had in view, without any actual interruption of the blessings of peace.

Since the last session of Parliament, a foundation has been laid for a pacification between Austria and the Porte, and I am now employing my mediation, in conjunction with my allies, for the purpose of negotiating a definitive treaty between those powers, and of endeavouring to put an end to the dissensions in the Netherlands, in which I am necessarily concerned, from considerations of national interest, as well as from the engagements of treaties.

A separate peace has taken place between Russia and Sweden; but the war between the former of those powers and the Porte still continues. The principles upon which I have hitherto acted will make me always desirous of employing the weight and influence of this country in contributing to the restoration of general tranquillity.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I have ordered the accounts of the expences of the late armaments, and the estimates for the ensuing year, to be laid before you.

Painful as it is to me at all times to see any increase of the public burdens, I am persuaded you will agree with me in thinking that the extent of our preparations was dictated by a due regard to the existing circumstances; and that you will reflect with pleasure on so striking a proof of the advantages derived from the liberal supplies granted since the last peace, for the naval service. I rely on your zeal and public spirit to make due provision for defraying the charges incurred by this armament, and for supporting the several branches of the public service on such a footing as the general situation of affairs may appear to require. You will at the same time, I am persuaded, shew your determination invariably to persevere in that system which has so effectually confirmed and maintained the public credit of the nation.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

You will have observed with concern the interruption which has taken place in the tranquillity of our Indian possessions, or consequence of the unprovoked attack on an ally of the British nation. The respectable state, however, of the forces under the direction of the government there, and the confidence of the British name, which the system prescribed by Parliament has established amongst the native powers of India, afford the most favourable prospect of bringing the contest to a speedy and successful conclusion.

I think it necessary particularly to call your attention to the state of the province of Quebec, and to recommend it to you to consider of such regulations for its government as the present circumstances and condition of the province may appear to require.

I am satisfied that I shall on every occasion receive the fullest proofs of your zealous and affectionate attachment, which cannot but afford me the highest satisfaction, after so recent an instance of collecting the immediate sense of my people.

You may be assured that I desire nothing so much on my part as to cultivate an entire harmony and confidence between me and my Parliament, for the purpose of preserving and transmitting to posterity the invaluable blessings of our free and excellent constitution; and of concurring with you in every measure which can maintain the advantages of our present situation, and promote and augment the prosperity and happiness of my faithful subjects.

Address by the House of Lords to his Majesty, Dec. 1, 1790.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Lords spiritual and temporal, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to return your Majesty our humble thanks for your most gracious speech from the throne.

Permit us, Sir, to condole with your Majesty on the loss your Majesty and your royal family have sustained, by the death of his late Royal Highness the Duke of Cumberland, whose many amiable qualities, as they had endeared him to the nation, cannot but excite universal regret for his untimely loss.

It is with the sincerest joy that we receive from your Majesty the information of the differences which had subsisted between your Majesty and the Court of Spain, have been happily brought

to an amicable termination ; and at the same time that we offer our hearty congratulations on so happy and important an event, we beg leave to return your Majesty our thanks, for having been graciously pleased to order copies of the declarations exchanged between your Majesty's ambassador and the minister of the Catholic King, and of the convention which has since been concluded, to be laid before us.

We acknowledge, with the highest gratitude your Majesty's paternal care for the national honour, and for the interests of your people, manifested by your Majesty, in having, in the whole of this transaction, made it your object to obtain a suitable reparation for the act of violence committed at Nootka, and to remove the grounds of similar disputes in future, as well as to secure to your Majesty's subjects the exercise of their navigation, commerce, and fisheries, in those parts of the world which were the subject of discussion.

We are truly sensible of the approbation your Majesty is graciously pleased to express of the zeal and public spirit manifested by all ranks of your Majesty's subjects ; and we learn with sincere pleasure that the disposition and conduct of your Majesty's allies had left your Majesty no room to doubt of the most vigorous and efficient support : but we most heartily unite with your Majesty in declaring, that nothing could afford us so much satisfaction as the attainment of the objects which your Majesty had in view, without any actual interruptions of the blessings of peace.

We beg leave to assure your Majesty of the sincere pleasure we feel in learning that a foundation has been laid for a pacification between Austria and the Porte, and that your Majesty is now employing your mediation, in conjunction with your allies, for the purpose of negotiating a definitive treaty between those powers, and of endeavouring to put an end to the dissensions in the Netherlands, in whose situation your Majesty in your great goodness has been pleased to declare you are necessarily concerned, from considerations of national interest, as well as from the engagements of treaties ; and we beg leave to assure your Majesty of our hearty concurrence in the benevolent principles on which your Majesty has hitherto acted, and in such measures as your Majesty, in your wisdom, shall think proper to pursue for employing the weight and influence of this country in contributing to the restoration of general tranquillity.

Convinced as we are that the extent of the late preparations was dictated by a due regard to the existing circumstances, we reflect with the highest pleasure on so striking a proof of the ad-

vantages derived from the liberal supplies granted since the last peace, for the naval service; and we beg leave to assure your Majesty of our utmost readiness to concur in making due provision for defraying the charges incurred by this armament, and for supporting the several branches of the public service, on such a footing as the general situation of affairs may appear to require, as well for the invariable adherence to that system which has so effectually confirmed and maintained the public credit of the nation.

The interruption which has taken place in the tranquillity of our Indian possessions, in consequence of the unprovoked attack on an ally of the British nation, has afforded us much concern; we reflect, however, with sincere satisfaction, on the respectable state of the British force under the direction of the government there, and on the confidence in the British name, which the system prescribed by Parliament has established among the native powers in India, as affording the most favourable prospect of bringing the contest to a speedy and successful conclusion.

We beg leave to assure your Majesty, that we shall bestow the most particular attention to the state of the province of Quebec; and to the consideration of such regulations for its government as the present circumstances and condition of the province may appear to require.

Conscious as we are of the inestimable blessings we enjoy under your Majesty's mild and auspicious government, we beg leave with grateful hearts to assure your Majesty of our most zealous and affectionate attachment, and of our firm reliance on your Majesty's most gracious assurances of your desire to cultivate an entire harmony and confidence between yourself and your Parliament, in which we shall ever most cordially unite, for the purpose of preserving and transmitting to posterity the invaluable blessings of our free and excellent constitution, and of concurring with your Majesty in every measure which can maintain the advantages of our present situation, can promote and augment the prosperity and happiness of your Majesty's subjects, or can evince the just and grateful sense we entertain of your Majesty's paternal regard and watchful care for the rights, interests, and welfare of your faithful people.

His Majesty's most gracious Answer.

My Lords,

I RETURN you my thanks for this dutiful and loyal address. Your condolence on the loss I have sustained, by the death of my late brother, the Duke of Cumberland, is an additional proof of your attachment to my person and family.

Your congratulations on the amicable termination of the differences which had subsisted between me and the Court of Spain, are extremely acceptable to me; and your concurrence with my wishes to cultivate the utmost harmony between me and my Parliament, is an additional satisfaction to me, as affording the best grounded hopes of preserving inviolate our excellent constitution, and of course contributing essentially to the general prosperity of my subjects.

Address of the House of Commons to his Majesty, Nov. 30, 1790.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons of Great Britain, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to return your Majesty our humble and hearty thanks for your most gracious speech from the throne.

We cannot omit taking the first opportunity to offer to your Majesty their sincere condolence on the loss which your Majesty has sustained by the untimely death of your royal brother, the late Duke of Cumberland.

It affords us the greatest satisfaction that the differences which had arisen between your Majesty and the Court of Spain, have happily been brought to an amicable termination; and we are grateful for your Majesty's goodness in having ordered copies of the declaration exchanged between your Majesty's ambassador and the minister of the Catholic King, and of the convention which has since been concluded, to be laid before us.

Nothing can more evince your Majesty's moderation, wisdom, and justice, than your having been pleased to direct your attention, in the whole of this transaction, to the objects of obtaining a suitable reparation for the act of violence committed at Nootka, and of removing the grounds of similar disputes in future, as well as of securing to your subjects the exercise of their navigation, commerce, and fisheries, in those parts of the world which were the subject of the discussion.

It gives us the greatest pleasure to be informed, that the disposition and conduct of your Majesty's allies concurred with the zeal and public spirit so naturally manifested by all ranks of your subjects, in ensuring to your Majesty the most vigorous and effectual support : we are, at the same time, fully sensible that no event could have been so satisfactory as the attainment of the objects which your Majesty had in view, without any actual interruption of the blessings of peace.

We are happy to learn, that a foundation has been laid for a pacification between Austria and the Porte, and that your Majesty has employed your mediation, in conjunction with your allies, for the purpose of negotiating a definitive treaty between those powers, and of endeavouring to put an end to the divisions in the Netherlands ; and we shall, at all times, rejoice in seeing the weight and influence of this country directed to the wise and benevolent object of contributing to the restoration of general tranquillity.

Your faithful Commons are deeply sensible of your Majesty's paternal goodness to your people, which leads your Majesty to regret any occasion of increasing the public burdens : we are fully aware of the policy and prudence of vigorous preparations, under the circumstances which lately existed, and we cannot but reflect, with great satisfaction, on the striking proof which has been given of the advantages derived from the liberal supplies granted, since the last peace, for the naval service.

Your Majesty may be assured of our readiness to make due provision for defraying the expences of the late armament, and for supporting the several branches of the public service, on such a footing as the general situation of affairs may appear to require ; and of our being, at the same time, peculiarly desirous of shewing, in the strongest manner, our determination invariably to persevere in that system which has so effectually confirmed and maintained the public credit of the nation.

We have observed, with concern, the interruption which has taken place in the tranquillity of our Indian possessions ; but that it affords us great satisfaction to be informed that your Majesty sees so favourable a prospect of bringing the contest to a speedy and successful conclusion.

Our particular attention shall be directed to the state of the province of Quebec ; and we shall carefully consider of such regulations for its government as the present circumstances and condition of the province may render expedient.

We should not faithfully represent the sentiments of a loyal and grateful people, if we were not to seek every opportunity of affording your Majesty the most convincing proofs of our
zealous

zealous and affectionate attachment. If any consideration could increase the warmth of those sentiments, it would be derived from your Majesty's gracious declaration of your desire to cultivate an entire harmony and confidence with your Parliament, for purposes which must endear still more your Majesty's name to the present age, and to posterity, as long as there remains a due sense of the invaluable blessings of our free and excellent constitution, and of the numerous and increasing advantages which your subjects enjoy under your Majesty's mild and auspicious government.

His Majesty's most gracious Answer.

Gentlemen,

I RETURN you my warmest thanks for this very loyal address.

Nothing can afford me more satisfaction than the cordial assurances which you give me of your affectionate attachment to my person and government, and of your zealous regard for the principles of the constitution, and the interest and prosperity of my people.

Declaration and Counter Declaration, signed and exchanged at Madrid, July 25, 1790, by his Majesty's Ambassador, and the Minister of the King of Spain; laid before Parliament, by his Majesty's Command, Dec. 3, 1790.

DECLARATION.

HIS Britannic Majesty having complained of the capture of certain vessels belonging to his subjects in the port of Nootka, situated on the north-west coast of America, by an officer in the service of the King, the under-signed counsellor and principal secretary of state to his Majesty, being thereto duly authorised, declares, in the name and by the order of his said Majesty, that he is willing to give satisfaction to his Britannic Majesty for the injury of which he has complained, fully persuaded that his said Britannic Majesty would act in the same manner towards the King under similar circumstances; and his Majesty further engages to make full restitution of all the British vessels which were captured at Nootka, and to indemnify the parties interested in those vessels for the losses which they shall have sustained, as soon as the amount thereof shall have been ascertained.

It being understood that this declaration is not to preclude or prejudice the ulterior discussion of any right which his Majesty may claim to form an exclusive establishment at the port of Nootka.

In witness whereof I have signed this declaration, and sealed it with the seal of my arms, at Madrid, the 24th of July, 1790.

Signed

(L. S.) LE COMTE DE FLORIDA BLANCA.

COUNTER-DECLARATION.

His Catholic Majesty having declared that he was willing to give satisfaction for the injury done to the King, by the capture of certain vessels belonging to his subjects in the bay of Nootka, and the Count de Florida Blanca having signed, in the name and by the order of his Catholic Majesty, a declaration to this effect; and by which his said Majesty likewise engages to make full restitution of the vessels so captured, and to indemnify the parties interested in those vessels for the losses they shall have sustained; the under-signed ambassador-extraordinary and plenipotentiary of his Majesty to the Catholic King, being thereto duly and expressly authorised, accepts the said declaration in the name of the King; and declares that his Majesty will consider this declaration, together with the performance of the engagements contained therein, as a full and entire satisfaction for the injury of which his Majesty has complained.

The under-signed declares, at the same time, that it is to be understood, that neither the said declaration signed by Count Florida Blanca, nor the acceptance thereof by the under-signed, in the name of the King, is to preclude or prejudice, in any respect, the right which his Majesty may claim to any establishment which his subjects may have formed, or shall be desirous of forming in future, at the said bay of Nootka.

In witness whereof I have signed this counter-declaration, and sealed it with the seal of my arms, at Madrid, the 24th of July, 1790.

Signed

(L. S.) ALLEYNE FITZ HERBERT.

Message from his Majesty to both Houses, March 28, 1791.

GEORGE RIX.

HIS Majesty thinks it necessary to acquaint this House, that the endeavours which his Majesty has used, in conjunction with his allies, to effect a pacification between Russia and the Porte, have hitherto been unsuccessful, and the consequences which may arise from the further progress of the war being highly important to the interests of his Majesty and his allies, and to those of Europe in general, his Majesty judges it requisite, in order to add weight to his representations, to make some further augmentation of his naval force; and his Majesty relies on the zeal and affection of this House, that they will be ready to make good such additional expences as may be incurred by these preparations, for the purpose of supporting the interests of his Majesty's kingdoms, and of contributing to the restoration of general tranquillity, on a sure and lasting foundation.

G. R.

Resolved by the House of Lords, March 29, 1791,

THAT an humble address be presented to his Majesty, to return his Majesty the thanks of this House for his most gracious message;

To express our regret, that the endeavours which his Majesty has used, in conjunction with his allies, to effect a pacification between Russia and the Porte, have hitherto been unsuccessful;

To assure his Majesty, that this House will be ready to grant the supplies which may be required to make such farther addition to the naval force, as shall add weight to his representations, for the purpose of supporting the interests of these kingdoms, and of contributing to the great and important objects of restoring the tranquillity of Europe, on a secure and lasting foundation.

Resolved by the House of Commons, March 29, 1791,

THAT an humble address be presented to his Majesty, to return his Majesty the thanks of this House for his most gracious message

To express our regret that the endeavours which his Majesty has used, in conjunction with his allies, to effect a pacification between Russia and the Porte, have hitherto been unsuccessful.

That

That nothing can more evince his Majesty's constant attention to the welfare of his subjects, and his concern for the general tranquillity, than his anxiety to contribute to the speedy termination of a war, from the farther progress of which his Majesty apprehends that consequences may arise highly important to the interests of his Majesty and his allies, and to those of Europe in general.

That as, under these circumstances, his Majesty judges it requisite, in order to add weight to his representations, to make some farther additions to his naval force, his faithful Commons think it their duty to assure his Majesty, that they shall be ready to make good the expences which may be incurred by these preparations, for the purpose of supporting the interests of these Kingdoms, and of contributing to the great and important objects of restoring the tranquillity of Europe on a secure and lasting foundation.

Message from his Majesty to the House of Commons, May 18, 1791.

GEORGE III.

HIS Majesty finding that the additional charges incurred on account of the establishment of the younger branches of his royal family, cannot be defrayed out of the monies applicable to the purposes of his Majesty's civil government, is under the necessity of desiring the assistance of Parliament for this purpose; and his Majesty relies on the attention of his faithful Commons, that they will make such provision as the circumstances may appear to them to require.

G. R.

His Majesty's most gracious Speech, June 10, 1791.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

IN closing the present session of Parliament, I cannot omit expressing my satisfaction in that zeal for the public interests with which you have applied yourselves to the consideration of the different objects which I recommended to your attention.

The measures which have been adopted for defraying the extraordinary expences of the last year, in such a manner as not to make any permanent addition to the public burdens, and the provisions which have been made for the good government and prosper-

prosperity of my subjects in Canada, call for my particular acknowledgments.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I return you my thanks for the readiness with which you have granted the supplies necessary for the public service, and for the proof of your affectionate attachment in enabling me to provide for a part of the charges of the younger branches of my family, out of the consolidated fund.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I am not yet enabled to inform you of the result of the steps which I have taken with a view to the re-establishment of peace between Russia and the Porte: it is my earnest wish that this important object may be effectuated in such a manner as may contribute to the preservation and maintenance of the general tranquillity of Europe. I feel with the greatest satisfaction the confidence which you have reposed in me, and my constant endeavours will be directed to the pursuit of such measures as may appear to me best calculated to promote the interests and happiness of my people, which are inseparable from my own.

Then the Lord Chancellor, by his Majesty's command, said,

My Lords and Gentlemen,

IT is his Majesty's royal will and pleasure that this Parliament be prorogued to Tuesday, the sixteenth day of August next, to be then here holden; and this Parliament is accordingly prorogued to Tuesday, the sixteenth day of August next.

His Majesty's most gracious Speech, Jan. 31, 1792.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

THE many proofs which you have given of your affectionate attachment to my person and family, leave me no doubt of your participating in the satisfaction which I derive from the happy event of the marriage which has been celebrated between my son, the Duke of York, and the eldest daughter of my good brother and ally, the King of Prussia; and I am persuaded, that I may expect your cheerful concurrence in enabling me to make a suitable provision for their establishment.

Since I last met you in Parliament, a definitive treaty has been concluded under my mediation, and that of my allies, the King of Prussia and the States General of the United Provinces,

vinces, between the Emperor and the Ottoman Porte, on principles which appear the best calculated to prevent future disputes between those powers.

Our intervention has also been employed with a view to promote a pacification between the Empress of Russia and the Porte ; and conditions have been agreed upon between us and the former of those powers, which we undertook to recommend to the Porte, as the re-establishment of peace, on such terms, as appeared to be, under all the existing circumstances, a desirable event for the several interests of Europe. I am in expectation of speedily receiving the account of the conclusion of the definitive treaty of peace, preliminaries having been some time since agreed upon between those powers.

I have directed copies of the definitive treaty between the Emperor and the Porte to be laid before you, as well as such papers as are necessary to shew the terms of peace which have been under discussion, during the negotiation with the Court of Petersburg.

I regret that I am not yet enabled to inform you of the termination of the war in India ; but the success which has already attended the distinguished bravery and exertion of the officers and troops under the able conduct of Lord Cornwallis, affords reasonable ground to hope that the war may speedily be brought to an honourable conclusion.

The friendly assurances which I receive from foreign powers, and the general state of affairs in Europe, appear to promise to my subjects the continuance of their present tranquillity. Under these circumstances, I am induced to think that some immediate reduction may safely be made in our naval and military establishments, and my regard for the interests of my subjects renders me at all times desirous of availing myself of every favourable opportunity to diminish the public expences.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I am persuaded it will give you great satisfaction to learn, that the extraordinary expences incurred in the course of last year, have, in a great measure, been already defrayed by the grants of the session. The state of our resources will, I trust, be found more than sufficient to provide for the remaining part of these expences, as well as for the current service of the year, the estimates of which I have directed to be laid before you.

I entertain the pleasing hope, that the reduction which may be found practicable in the establishments, and the continued increase of the revenue, will enable you, after making due provision for the several branches of the public service, to enter upon

upon a system of gradually relieving my subjects from some part of the existing taxes, at the same time giving additional efficacy to the plan for the reduction of the national debt, on the success of which our future ease and security essentially depend. With a view to this important object, let me also recommend it to you to turn your attention to the consideration of such measures as the state of the funds and of public credit may render practicable and expedient, towards a reduction in the rate of interest of such of the annuities which are now redeemable.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

The continued and progressive improvement in the internal situation of the country, will, I am confident, animate you in the pursuit of every measure which may be conducive to the public interest. It must at the same time operate as the strongest encouragement to a spirit of useful industry among all classes of my subjects; and above all, must confirm and increase their steady and zealous attachment to that constitution which we have found, by long experience, to unite the inestimable blessings of liberty and order, and to which, under the favour of Providence, all our other advantages are principally to be ascribed.

Address by the House of Lords to his Majesty, Jan. 31, 1792.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Lords spiritual and temporal, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to return your Majesty our humble thanks for your most gracious speech from the throne

Permit us to express to your Majesty, that deeply sensible of the many blessings which we enjoy under your Majesty's auspicious reign, we eagerly embrace the first opportunity to offer to your Majesty our dutiful congratulations on the happy event of the marriage of his Royal Highness the Duke of York with the Princess Royal of Prussia; and we beg leave to assure your Majesty of the sincere and heart-felt satisfaction which we derive from every circumstance that adds to your Majesty's domestic happiness, and affords us a fresh security for the continuance of the government of these kingdoms in your Majesty's illustrious line. Strongly impressed with these sentiments, we shall, with the greatest cheerfulness, concur in the necessary measure, for making a suitable provision for the establishment of their Royal Highnesses.

We

We feel great satisfaction in learning that the war between the Emperor and the Ottoman Porte has, under the mediation of your Majesty and your allies, been terminated by a definitive treaty, on such principles as appear to your Majesty the best calculated to prevent future disputes between those powers; and that a progress has been made towards a pacification between the Emperors of Russia and the Porte.

We return your Majesty our sincere thanks for your condescension and goodness in the communication of a copy of the definitive treaty between Austria and the Porte, and of those papers respecting the negotiation with the Court of Petersburg, which your Majesty has been graciously pleased to direct to be laid before us.

We join with your Majesty in regretting the continuance of the war in India; but we have seen with great satisfaction the success which has already attended the bravery and exertions of the officers and troops under the able conduct of Lord Cornwallis; and we trust the war will by their efforts speedily be brought to an honourable conclusion.

We learn with peculiar satisfaction that the friendly assurances which your Majesty receives from the foreign powers, and the general state of affairs in Europe, appear to your Majesty to promise a continuance of our present tranquillity; and we acknowledge your Majesty's paternal goodness manifested in your desire to embrace every opportunity for diminishing the public expence by such reduction of the establishment as may be found to be practicable and expedient.

Every circumstance in our present situation must lead us to reflect, with the deepest gratitude, on your Majesty's unremitting anxiety for the welfare of your people; and must confirm and strengthen in the minds of all your Majesty's subjects, our steady and zealous attachment to that constitution which we found by long experience to unite the inestimable blessings of liberty and order, and which we consider as being, under the favour of Providence, the principal source of all our present advantages.

His Majesty's most gracious Answer.

My Lords,

I THANK you for this very dutiful and loyal address. The expressions of your affection towards my person and family, and of your zealous attachment to that constitution from which we derive so many advantages, are peculiarly acceptable to me. And I receive with great pleasure your congratulations on the

the marriage of my son, the Duke of York, with the eldest daughter of my good brother and ally, the King of Prussia, and the assurances of your readiness to concur in making a suitable provision for their establishment.

Address of the House of Commons to his Majesty, Feb. 1, 1792.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons of Great Britain, in Parliament assembled, humbly beg leave to return your Majesty the thanks of this House for your most gracious speech from the throne.

We embrace the earliest opportunity to offer your Majesty our cordial and dutiful congratulations upon the nuptials of his Royal Highness the Duke of York; and to express the great satisfaction and joy of your faithful Commons on this happy occasion, which may furnish an additional security to the many blessings which this country has enjoyed under the mild and auspicious government of your Majesty, and your illustrious family.

Impressed with these sentiments, we shall cheerfully proceed to make such provision for the establishment of their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of York, as shall be suited to their rank and dignity.

We learn, with satisfaction, the progress which has been made towards the restoration of general tranquillity.

We acknowledge your Majesty's condescension and goodness in communicating to us the result of the negotiations in which your Majesty has been engaged with foreign powers; and in having been graciously pleased to order copies of the definitive treaty between Austria and the Porte to be laid before us; together with such papers as are necessary to shew the terms of peace which have been under discussion, during the negotiation with the Court of Petersburg.

Although we cannot but regret that your Majesty is not yet enabled to inform us of the termination of the war in India, we reflect, with just satisfaction, on the success which has already attended the distinguished bravery and exertions of the officers and troops under the able conduct of Lord Cornwallis; and we rejoice that your Majesty sees reasonable ground to hope that the war may be speedily brought to an honourable conclusion.

We are happy to learn that the friendly assurances which your Majesty receives from foreign powers, and the general situation

of affairs, induce your Majesty to think that some immediate reduction may safely be made in our naval and military establishments; and we observe, with the warmest gratitude, your Majesty's parental regard for the interests of your subjects, manifested in your desire of availing yourself of any favourable opportunity to diminish the public expences.

It cannot but afford us great satisfaction to find that the extraordinary expences, incurred in the course of the last year, have been already defrayed, in a great measure, by the grants of the session; and we shall apply ourselves, without delay, to the consideration of the best means of providing for the remaining part of those expences, as well as for the current service of the year.

We shall proceed to the examination of the state of the public income and expenditure; and it will afford us the highest gratification if, on the result of such examination, we shall find ourselves enabled to enter on a system so consonant to our most earnest and anxious wishes, as that of gradually relieving your Majesty's faithful subjects from some parts of the existing taxes; at the same time giving additional efficacy to the plan for the reduction of the national debt, on the success of which we are fully sensible that our future ease and security most essentially depend.

With a view to this important object, we shall not fail to turn our attention to the consideration of such measures as the state of the funds, and of public credit, may render practicable and expedient towards a reduction in the rate of interest of any of the annuities which are now redeemable.

We beseech your Majesty to believe that we shall consider the continued and progressive improvement of the internal situation of the country, as an additional incentive to the faithful discharge of our duty, in the pursuit of every measure that can be conducive to the public interest.

We cordially join with your Majesty in a just expectation and reliance, that this happy circumstance must operate as the strongest encouragement to a spirit of useful industry, among all classes of your Majesty's subjects. And, above all, we rejoice to think that it must confirm and increase their steady and zealous attachment to the principles of that constitution, which has been found, by long experience, to unite the inestimable blessings of liberty and order; and which we shall ever consider it our first duty to preserve and maintain, as being the cause to which, under the favour of Providence, all our other advantages are principally to be ascribed.

His Majesty's most gracious Answer.

Gentlemen,

I THANK you for this loyal and dutiful address.

Your cordial and affectionate congratulations on the marriage of my son, the Duke of York, with the Princess Royal of Prussia, and the assurances of your readiness to enable me to make a suitable provision for their establishment, cannot but afford me the warmest satisfaction.

I observe with peculiar pleasure the expressions of your regard to the interests of my subjects, which cannot be more fully manifested than by your constant and earnest desire to preserve, unimpaired, the innumerable blessings which they derive from our excellent constitution.

Speech of Mr. Speaker to his Majesty, April 5, 1792.

Most gracious Sovereign,

IT is my duty to tender to your Majesty two bills, in the name and on the behalf the Commons of Great Britain, in Parliament assembled.

In pursuance to your Majesty's recommendation, your Commons cheerfully proceeded to make a provision for the establishment of their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Dukes of York; and they trust that the bill, which they have passed for this purpose, will fully manifest their just sense of what is due to the rank and dignity of their Royal Highnesses, as well as the satisfaction they derive from an event which, whilst it promotes the comfort and happiness of your Majesty and your illustrious family, is also materially conducive to the interests and honour of your people.

Other objects, no less interesting to your Majesty's mind, constantly directed as it is to the welfare of your subjects, have also engaged the attention of your Commons. The prosperous and improving condition of the public revenue, and the reductions which have been found practicable in the naval and military establishments, afforded the means, of which your Commons thought it their duty to avail themselves, of making a large addition to the fund, to be applied in the course of the present year, to the reduction of the public debt: their conduct upon this, as upon other occasions, was governed by the conviction, that the efficiency and success of the plan which has been established by Parliament for this important purpose,

must essentially tend to the future ease and permanent security of these kingdoms. In the adoption of these measures, your Commons have felt peculiar satisfaction by finding themselves enabled, at the same time to give some immediate relief to your Majesty's subjects, whose firmness in sustaining the burdens rendered necessary by a due regard to the maintenance of public credit, and whose spirit of enterprize and useful industry have so effectually contributed to advance to the pre-eminence they have attained, the general interests and prosperity of the empire.

Your Commons, Sir, contemplate with just satisfaction the continued and progressive improvement in the internal situation of the country ; to preserve, augment, and diffuse the blessings of which we are in possession, they consider as the most important of their duties ; and actuated by this principle, which comprehends a zealous and firm attachment to the form of government under which we live, and a faithful and vigilant attention to the interests and happiness of all classes of their fellow subjects, they are persuaded that those measures, which are the result of it, cannot fail to receive your Majesty's most gracious approbation.

The bills which I have in my hand are severally intituled,

“ An act to enable his Majesty to make provision for the
 “ establishment of their Royal Highnesses the Duke and
 “ Duchefs of York and Albany, and also to settle an annuity
 “ on her Royal Highness during the term of her natural life,
 “ to commence from the decease of his said Royal Highness, in
 “ case her said Royal Highness shall survive him.

“ An act for granting to his Majesty the sum of four hundred thousand pounds, to be issued and paid to the governor
 “ and company of the Bank of England, to be by them placed
 “ to the account of the commissioners for the reduction of the
 “ national debt.”

To which your Commons, with all humility, intreat your Majesty's royal assent.

His Majesty's Proclamation laid before Parliament, by his Majesty's Command, May 21, 1792.

BY THE KING.

A PROCLAMATION.

GEORGE REX.

WHEREAS divers wicked and seditious writings have been printed, published, and industriously dispersed, tending to excite tumult and disorder, by endeavouring to raise groundless jealousies and discontents in the minds of our faithful and loving subjects, respecting the laws and happy constitution of government, civil and religious, established in this kingdom, and endeavouring to vilify and bring into contempt the wise and wholesome provisions made at the time of the glorious Revolution, and since strengthened and confirmed by subsequent laws, for the preservation and security of the rights and liberties of our faithful and loving subjects: and whereas divers writings have also been printed, published, and industriously dispersed, recommending the said wicked and seditious publications to the attention of all our faithful and loving subjects: and whereas we have also reason to believe, that correspondences have been entered into with sundry persons in foreign parts, with a view to forward the criminal and wicked purposes above mentioned: and whereas the wealth, happiness, and prosperity of this kingdom do, under divine Providence, chiefly depend upon a due submission to the laws, a just confidence in the integrity and wisdom of Parliament, and a continuance of that zealous attachment to the government and constitution of the kingdom, which has ever prevailed in the minds of the people thereof: and whereas there is nothing which we so earnestly desire as to secure the public peace and prosperity, and to preserve to all our loving subjects the full enjoyment of their rights and liberties, both religious and civil: we therefore, being resolved, as far as in us lies, to repress the wicked and seditious practices aforesaid, and to deter all persons from following so pernicious an example, have thought fit, by the advice of our privy council, to issue this our royal proclamation, solemnly warning all our loving subjects, as they tender their own happiness, and that of their posterity, to guard against all such attempts which aim at the subversion of all regular government within this kingdom, and which are inconsistent with the peace and order of society: and earnestly exhorting them, at all times, and to the utmost of their power, to avoid and discourage all proceedings tending

to produce riots and tumults: and we do strictly charge and command all our magistrates in and throughout our kingdom of Great Britain, that they do make diligent inquiry in order to discover the authors and printers of such wicked and seditious writings as aforesaid, and all others who shall disperse the same; and we do further charge and command all our sheriffs, justices of the peace, chief magistrates of our cities, boroughs, and corporations, and all other our officers and magistrates throughout our kingdom of Great Britain, that they do, in their several and respective stations, take the most immediate and effectual care to suppress and prevent all riots, tumults, and other disorders, which may be attempted to be raised or made by any person or persons; which, on whatever pretext they may be grounded, are not only contrary to law, but dangerous to the most important interests of this kingdom: and we do further require and command all and every our magistrates aforesaid, that they do, from time to time, transmit to one of our principal secretaries of state due and full information of such persons as shall be found offending as aforesaid, or in any degree aiding or abetting therein; it being our determination, for the preservation of the peace and happiness of our faithful and loving subjects, to carry the laws vigorously into execution against such offenders as aforesaid.

Given at our Court at the Queen's House, the 21st day of May, 1792, in the 32d year of our reign.

GOD save the KING.

Joint Address of both Houses to his Majesty, June 2, 1792.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most loyal and dutiful subjects, the Lords spiritual and temporal, and Commons of Great Britain, in Parliament assembled, have taken into our most serious consideration your Majesty's royal proclamation, which has, by your Majesty's command, been laid before us: and we beg leave to testify to your Majesty, our warm and grateful sense of this fresh proof of your Majesty's constant solicitude for the welfare and happiness of your people. We cannot see without indignation the attempts which have been made to weaken in the minds of your Majesty's subjects the sentiments of obedience to the laws, and of attachment to the form of government, civil and religious, so happily established within this realm. The advantages which, under the government of your Majesty and your illustrious ancestors, have been derived

derived from legal and well-regulated freedom, and the unexampled blessings which we actually enjoy, afford to your Majesty's subjects peculiar motives to reflect with gratitude on their present situation, and to beware of those delusive theories which are inconsistent with the relations and duties of all civil society. And we deem it, under the present circumstances, the peculiar duty of every good citizen to discourage and counteract every attempt, direct and indirect, against public order and tranquillity. We are confident, that the sentiments which we now express to your Majesty are the general sentiments of the nation; they must feel with us, that real liberty can only exist under the protection of law, and the authority of efficient and regular government; and they have seen, by happy experience, that the mixed form of our legislature comprehends and provides for the various interests of the community through all its several descriptions, and maintains and preserves those gradations of property and condition which furnish the great incentives to useful industry, and are equally essential to the vigour and exertion of every part, and to the stability and welfare of the whole. They therefore know, that the collective strength and prosperity of the empire, its wealth, its credit, and its commerce, as well as the only security for the persons, the property, and the liberties of each individual, are essentially connected with the preservation of the established constitution.

Impressed with these opinions, we think it our duty to assure your Majesty of our firm determination to support your Majesty in the resolution which your Majesty has adopted; and we are fully persuaded, that every exertion which may be necessary will be seconded by the zeal and gratitude of a free and loyal people.

His Majesty's most gracious Answer.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I THANK you very warmly for this loyal, dutiful, and seasonable address.

My utmost endeavours shall never be wanting to maintain among my people a just sense of the advantages of our present constitution, the source of legal and well-regulated freedom: and, at the same time, to secure to them, by a due exertion of the laws, a continuance of all the unexampled blessings which they now enjoy. It is the greatest satisfaction to me to reflect, that, in these endeavours, I shall receive the firm and united assistance of my Parliament; and I feel the same con-

viction and confidence which is expressed by you, that our exertions for this purpose will be seconded by the zeal and public spirit of my people, whose happiness forms the first object of all my wishes.

Speech of Mr. Speaker to his Majesty, June 15, 1792.

Most gracious Sovereign,

YOUR Majesty's faithful Commons, not content with having carried into effect a bill, the principle and tendency of which is highly interesting to public credit, and to the prosperity of the kingdom, have also made provision for preventing the future permanent increase of the national debt, by having resolved, that on all future loans means should be found for their discharge, which operation, it is the hope of the Commons, no necessity will ever prevent; as, by such provision, your Majesty's loyal subjects will be guarded from those difficulties in which they have been involved, and which could only be supported by that public spirit and patriotic zeal which pervaded all ranks of your Majesty's people. Other objects have also occupied the attention of the Commons, who have the satisfaction of releasing your Majesty's subjects from several of the burdens under which they have laboured. The Commons have also taken measures to promote the commerce, the manufactures, and the revenue of the empire. Your Majesty may be assured of the determination of your faithful Commons to maintain the happy constitution of the country, from which the people look for an increase of their blessings, and for the security and continuance of those of which they are actually possessed. Your Majesty's faithful Commons trust, that the giving to juries the right of deciding on all cases of libels will be highly advantageous, as it gives uniformity to the law, and security to the property, the lives, and liberties of your Majesty's subjects. Your Majesty's faithful Commons are sensible of the enjoyments arising from the present form of government, the preservation of which they are fully convinced is determined to be persevered in by a great and loyal people.

Mr. Speaker concluded by saying, he held in his hand the National Debt future Loan Bill, to which his Majesty's faithful Commons prayed his royal assent.

His

His Majesty's most gracious Speech, June 15, 1702.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I CANNOT close the present session of Parliament without returning you my particular thanks for the attention and diligence with which you have applied yourselves to the dispatch of the public business, and especially to the important objects which I recommended to your consideration.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

The readiness with which you have granted the necessary supplies, and the fresh proof which you have given of your constant affection for my person and family, in enabling me to provide for the establishment of my son, the Duke of York, call for my warmest acknowledgments. I have also observed, with the utmost satisfaction, the measures which you have adopted for the diminution of the public burdens; while you have, at the same time, made additional provision for the reduction of the present national debt, and established a permanent system for preventing the dangerous accumulation of debt in future.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I have seen with great concern the commencement of hostilities in different parts of Europe. In the present situation of affairs, it will be my principal care to maintain that harmony and good understanding which subsist between me and the several belligerent powers, and to preserve to my people the uninterrupted blessings of peace. And the assurances which I receive from all quarters, of a friendly disposition towards this country, afford me the pleasing hope of succeeding in these endeavours.

The recent expressions of your uniform and zealous attachment to the established government and constitution, leave me no room to doubt, that you will, in your several counties, be active and vigilant to maintain those sentiments in the minds of my faithful people: and I have the happiness of receiving continued and additional proofs of their just sense of their numerous and increasing advantages which they now enjoy under the protection and distinguished favour of Providence.

Then

Then the Lord Chancellor, by his Majesty's command, said,
My Lords and Gentlemen,

IT is his Majesty's royal will and pleasure, that this Parliament be prorogued to Thursday, the 30th day of August next, to be then here holden, and this Parliament is accordingly prorogued to Thursday, the 30th day of August next.

Proclamation laid before Parliament by his Majesty's Command.

BY THE KING.

A PROCLAMATION.

GEORGE REX.

WHEREAS by an act, passed in the twenty sixth year of our reign, entitled, "An act for amending and reducing " into one act of Parliament the laws relating to the militia in " that part of Great Britain called England," it is enacted, That it shall be lawful for us, in the cases and in manner therein mentioned, the occasion being first declared in council, and notified by proclamation, if no Parliament shall be then sitting, to order and direct the drawing out and embodying of our militia forces, or any part thereof. And whereas we have received information, that in breach of the laws, and notwithstanding our royal proclamation of the 21st day of May last, the utmost industry is still employed by evil-disposed persons within this kingdom, acting in concert with persons in foreign parts, with a view to subvert the laws and established constitution of this realm, and to destroy all order and government therein; and that a spirit of tumult and disorder, thereby excited, has lately shewn itself in acts of riot and insurrection. And whereas, under the present circumstances, it is more particularly necessary, that for the immediate suppression of such attempts, some addition should be made, as the exigency of the case may require, to the force which may be in readiness to act for the support of the civil magistrate; we therefore, being determined to exert the powers vested in us by law for the protection of the persons, liberties, and properties of our faithful subjects, and fully relying on their zeal and attachment to our person and government, and to the happy constitution established in these kingdoms, have thought fit to declare in our council, our royal intention, for the causes and on the occasion aforesaid, to draw out and embody such part of our militia forces as may more immediately enable us to provide
for

for the said important objects. And we do hereby, in pursuance of the said recited act, notify to all our loving subjects our said intention, and the causes and occasions thereof.

Given at our Court at Windsor, the first day of December, 1792, and in the 33d year of our reign.

GOD save the KING.

Proclamation laid before Parliament by his Majesty's Command.

BY THE KING.

A PROCLAMATION.

GEORGE REX.

WHEREAS by an act passed in the twenty-sixth year of our reign, entitled, "An act for amending and reducing " into one act of Parliament the laws relating to the militia " in that part of Great Britain called England," it is enacted, That whenever we shall cause the militia to be drawn out and embodied, on the occasions and in the manner therein mentioned, if the Parliament shall then be separated by such adjournment or prorogation as will not expire within fourteen days; we may and shall issue our proclamation for the meeting of the Parliament within fourteen days; and the Parliament shall accordingly meet and sit upon such days as shall be appointed by such proclamation, and continue to sit and act in like manner, to all intents and purposes, as if it had stood adjourned or prorogued to the same day: and whereas we have thought fit, in pursuance of the said act, this day to declare in our council, certain causes and occasions moving us to order and direct, that such part of our militia forces, as may more immediately enable us to provide for the important objects therein mentioned, should be drawn out and embodied: and whereas, in pursuance of the said recited act, we have thought fit on this day to issue our royal proclamation, notifying the causes and occasions so declared in council as aforesaid: and whereas our Parliament now stands prorogued to Thursday, the third day of January next, we therefore, by the advice of our privy council, do hereby publish and declare our royal will and pleasure, that our said Parliament shall, on Thursday, the thirteenth day of this instant December, be held for the dispatch of divers weighty and important affairs. And the Lords spiritual and temporal, and the knights, citizens, and burghesses, and the commissioners for shires and burghs of the
House

House of Commons, are hereby required to give attendance at Westminster on the said thirteenth day of December.

Given at our Court at Windsor, the first day of December, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-two, and in the thirty-third year of our reign.

GOD save the KING.

His Majesty's most gracious Speech, December 13, 1792.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

HAVING judged it necessary to embody a part of the militia of this kingdom, I have, in pursuance of the provisions of the law, called you together within the time limited for that purpose: and it is, on every account, a great satisfaction to me to meet you in Parliament at this conjuncture.

I should have been happy if I could have announced to you the secure and undisturbed continuance of all the blessings which my subjects have derived from a state of tranquillity; but events have recently occurred, which require our united vigilance and exertion, in order to preserve the advantages which we have hitherto enjoyed.

The seditious practices which had been, in a great measure, checked by your firm and explicit declaration in the last session, and by the general concurrence of my people in the same sentiments, have of late been more openly renewed, and with increased activity. A spirit of tumult and disorder (the natural consequence of such practices) has shown itself in acts of riot and insurrection, which required the interposition of a military force in support of the civil magistrate. The industry employed to excite discontent on various pretexts, and in different parts of the kingdom, has appeared to proceed from a design to attempt the destruction of our happy constitution, and the subversion of all order and government; and this design has evidently been pursued in connection and concert with persons in foreign countries.

I have carefully observed a strict neutrality in the present war on the continent, and have uniformly abstained from any interference with respect to the internal affairs of France; but it is impossible for me to see, without the most serious uneasiness, the strong and increasing indications which have appeared there of an intention to excite disturbances in other countries—to disregard the rights of neutral nations—and to pursue views of conquest and aggrandizement; as well as to adopt towards my allies, the States General, (who have observed the same neutrality with myself) measures which are neither conformable

to the law of nations, nor to the positive stipulations of existing treaties. Under all these circumstances I have felt it my indispensable duty to have recourse to those means of prevention and internal defence with which I am entrusted by law; and I have also thought it right to take steps for making some augmentation of my naval and military force; being persuaded that these exertions are necessary in the present state of affairs, and are best calculated to maintain internal tranquillity, and to render a firm and temperate conduct effectual for preserving the blessings of peace.

Nothing will be neglected on my part that can contribute to that important object, consistent with the security of my kingdoms, and with the faithful performance of engagements which we are bound equally by interest and honour to fulfil.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I have ordered the estimates for the ensuing year to be laid before you; and I have no doubt that you will be ready to make a due provision for the several branches of the public service.

You will certainly join with me in lamenting any necessity for extraordinary expences, which may for a time prevent the application of additional sums beyond those which are already annually appropriated to the reduction of the public debt, or retard the relief which my subjects might have derived from a further diminution of taxes; but I am confident you will feel that those great ends will ultimately be best promoted by such exertions as are necessary for our present and future safety and tranquillity; and it is a great consolation to me to reflect, that you will find ample resources for effectually defraying the expence of vigorous preparations, from the excess of the actual revenue beyond the ordinary expenditure.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I have great pleasure in acquainting you that the brilliant successes of the British arms in India, under the able conduct of the Marquis Cornwallis, have led to the termination of the war by a speedy, agreeable and honourable peace; the terms of which are peculiarly satisfactory to me, from their tendency to secure the future tranquillity of the British dominions in that part of the world.

Your attention will now naturally be directed to the taking such measures for the future government of those valuable possessions, as shall appear, from experience and full consideration, most likely to provide for their internal prosperity, and to secure the important advantages which may be derived from thence to the commerce and revenue of this country.

I am

I am persuaded that it will be the object of your immediate consideration to adopt such measures as may be necessary, under the present circumstances, for enforcing obedience to the laws, and for repressing every attempt to disturb the peace and tranquillity of these kingdoms.

You will be sensible how much depends on the result of your deliberations, and your uniform conduct is the best pledge, that nothing will be wanting on your part which can contribute to the present security and permanent advantage of the country.

I retain a deep and unalterable sense of the repeated proofs which I have received of your cordial and affectionate attachment to me ; and I place an entire reliance on the continuance of those sentiments, as well as on your firm determination to defend and maintain that constitution which has so long protected the liberties and promoted the happiness of every class of my subjects.

In endeavouring to preserve and to transmit to posterity the inestimable blessings which, under the favour of Providence, you have yourselves experienced, you may be assured of my zealous and cordial co-operation ; and your joint efforts will, I doubt not, be rendered completely effectual, by the decided support of a free and loyal people.

Address of the House of Lords to His Majesty, Dec. 13, 1792.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Lords spiritual and temporal, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to return your Majesty our humble and dutiful acknowledgments for your Majesty's most gracious speech from the throne.

Permit us to assure your Majesty, that, under circumstances which require the united vigilance and exertion of all the branches of the legislature, to preserve to your Majesty's subjects the continuance of those advantages which they have hitherto enjoyed ; it is a great satisfaction to us, that your Majesty, by meeting us in Parliament at this conjuncture, has afforded us an opportunity of manifesting our loyalty to your Majesty, and our zeal for the dearest interests of our country.

We have seen, with the greatest concern, that the seditious practices which were the objects of your Majesty's late proclamation, and which were so strongly condemned by the declaration of both Houses of Parliament, and by the general sentiments of the people, have of late been more openly renewed, and with increased activity. We deeply lament that spirit of

tumult and disorder, the natural consequence of such practices, which has shewn itself in different acts of riot and insurrection, requiring the interposition of a military force in support of the civil magistrate. We are sensible that the industry employed to excite discontent, on various pretexts, and in different parts of the kingdom, has proceeded from a settled design to attempt the destruction of our happy constitution, and the subversion of all order and government; and we learn with the utmost indignation that this design has been pursued in connection and concert with persons in foreign countries.

We highly applaud the wise and generous conduct adopted by your Majesty in observing a strict neutrality in the present war on the continent, and abstaining from any interference with respect to the internal affairs of France: but we beg leave to assure your Majesty, that we fully participate in that serious uneasiness so justly felt by your Majesty on account of the strong and increasing indications which have appeared in France of an intention to excite disturbances in other countries, to disregard the rights of neutral nations, and to pursue views of conquest and aggrandizement, as well as to adopt towards your Majesty's allies the States General, who have observed the same neutrality with your Majesty, measures neither conformable to the law of nations, nor to the positive stipulations of existing treaties.

We acknowledge with the deepest gratitude your Majesty's paternal care for the security and happiness of your people, which has led your Majesty, on the present occasion, to have recourse to those means of prevention and internal defence with which your Majesty is intrusted by law; and also to augment your Majesty's naval and military force; and we concur with your Majesty in the persuasion that these exertions are necessary in the present state of affairs, and are best calculated both to maintain internal tranquillity, and to render a firm and temperate conduct effectual for preserving the blessings of peace; an object which, however important in itself, is no otherwise desirable than as it can be attained consistently with the security of these kingdoms, and with the faithful performance of engagements which we are bound equally by interest and honour to fulfil.

We congratulate your Majesty on the brilliant successes of the British arms in India, under the able conduct of the Marquis Cornwallis, and more especially on the termination of the war in that country by an advantageous and honourable peace, to the terms of which we look with peculiar satisfaction, from their tendency to secure the future tranquillity of the British dominions. We shall now apply our attention to the
forming

forming such arrangements for the future government of those valuable possessions, as experience and deliberation may recommend to us, with a view to the prosperity of that country, and to the advantages which it may afford to the British commerce and revenue.

We beg leave to assure your Majesty, that we feel it to be our bounden duty, that it shall be the object of our most immediate consideration, to adopt all proper measures for enforcing obedience to the laws, and for repressing every attempt to disturb the peace and tranquillity of this kingdom. We are not ignorant that on the result of our deliberations, at this moment, depend the present security and prosperity of our country. We well know that we can in no manner better provide for these important and interesting objects, than by manifesting in all our conduct that affectionate attachment which is so justly due to your Majesty from every one of your subjects, and which is deeply impressed upon our hearts; and by directing all our counsels to the defence and maintenance of the constitution, so dear to a people whose liberties it has long protected, and whose happiness it has essentially promoted. In endeavouring to preserve and transmit to our posterity these inestimable blessings, we know from uniform experience that we may be assured of your Majesty's co-operation and assistance; and we are confident that the united efforts of your Majesty and your Parliament, for this purpose, will be rendered completely effectual by the decided support of a free and loyal people.

His Majesty's most gracious Answer.

My Lords,

I THANK you for this very loyal and dutiful address. Your expressions of affectionate attachment to my person, and of zeal for the maintenance of the constitution, are peculiarly acceptable to me at this conjuncture; and I am satisfied, that, whatever may be the course of future events, the spirit and loyalty which you have manifested on this occasion will be productive of the happiest consequences to my people.

Address

Address of the House of Commons to his Majesty, Dec. 14, 1792.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons of Great Britain, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to return your Majesty our most humble thanks for your most gracious speech from the throne.

It would have afforded us the most sincere satisfaction if your Majesty could have announced to us the secure and undisturbed continuance of all the blessings which your Majesty's subjects have derived from a state of tranquillity; but we are fully sensible that events have recently occurred, which must require our united vigilance and exertion to preserve to this country the advantages which it has hitherto enjoyed.

It has been impossible for us not to perceive, from our own observation in different parts of the country, the increased activity with which seditious practices have of late been openly renewed; and we learn, with concern, that not only a spirit of tumult and disorder (the natural consequence of such practices) has shewn itself in acts of riot and insurrection, which required the interposition of a military force in support of the civil magistrate, but that the industry employed to excite discontent has appeared to proceed from a design to attempt, in concert with persons in foreign countries, the destruction of our happy constitution, and the subversion of all order and government.

We entertain a just sense of the temper and prudence which have induced your Majesty to observe a strict neutrality with respect to the war on the continent, and uniformly to abstain from any interference in the internal affairs of France; but, at the same time we cannot but participate in the just uneasiness with which your Majesty must observe any indications of an intention to excite disturbances in other countries, to disregard the rights of neutral nations, and to pursue views of conquest and aggrandizement, and particularly to adopt measures towards your Majesty's allies, the States General, inconsistent with the law of nations, and the positive stipulations of existing treaties.

The circumstances which your Majesty has been pleased to communicate to us, appear to have rendered it highly important for the safety and interest of this country, that your Majesty should have recourse to those measures of prevention and internal defence with which your Majesty is entrusted by law.

We sincerely hope that these exertions, and the steps which your Majesty has taken for augmenting your naval and military force, will have the happy tendency both to maintain internal

tranquillity, and to render a firm and temperate conduct effectual for preserving the blessings of peace.

Your Majesty may, at the same time, rely on our zealous concurrence in such measures as may prove to be necessary for the security of these kingdoms, and for the faithful performance of our engagements.

We shall proceed to make such provisions as shall be requisite for the several branches of the public service.

We must indeed see, with the deepest regret, any necessity for extraordinary expences, which may prevent the application of additional sums, beyond those already annually appropriated to the reduction of the public debt, or retard the farther relief which your Majesty's subjects might derive from a diminution of taxes: but we are fully aware that those great ends to which our views must anxiously be directed will themselves ultimately be best promoted by such vigorous and timely exertions as may be necessary for our present and future safety and tranquillity, and it will, undoubtedly, be a great consolation to us, to find that the excess of the actual revenue, beyond the ordinary expenditure, is such as to furnish ample resources for effectually defraying the expences of vigorous preparations, if the circumstances of the time should render such preparations requisite.

We beg leave to offer to your Majesty our cordial congratulations on the brilliant successes of the British arms in India, under the able conduct of the Marquis Cornwallis, and on the termination of the war in that country by an advantageous and honourable peace, which can, in no respect, be more satisfactory than in its tendency to secure the future tranquillity of the British dominions in that part of the world: we shall not fail to employ our utmost attention, with a view to taking such measures for the future government of those valuable possessions as shall appear, from experience and full consideration, most likely to provide for their internal prosperity, and to secure the important advantages which may be derived from thence to the commerce and revenue of this country.

Your Majesty may depend upon the zeal and readiness with which we shall enter on the consideration of any measures which may appear to be necessary, under the present circumstances, for enforcing obedience to the laws, and for repressing every attempt to disturb the peace and tranquillity of these kingdoms; and we beseech your Majesty to believe, that no endeavours will be wanting, on our part, which can contribute to the present security and permanent advantage of the country.

We shall, on every occasion, be anxious to manifest the continuance of our dutiful and affectionate attachment to your Majesty,

Majesty, as well as our firm determination to defend and maintain that constitution which has so long protected the liberties and promoted the happiness of every class of your Majesty's subjects; feeling it to be our first and most essential duty to preserve and transmit to posterity the inestimable blessings which, under the favour of Providence, we have ourselves experienced.

We receive, with the warmest emotions of gratitude, the gracious assurances of your Majesty's zealous and cordial co-operation; and we rely with confidence on the decided support of a free and loyal people.

His Majesty's most gracious Answer.

Gentlemen,

I RETURN you my warmest thanks for this loyal and affectionate address, and I receive, with peculiar satisfaction, the assurances of your attachment to me, and of your determination zealously to concur in such measures as may be necessary for the security of these kingdoms, and for the faithful performance of our engagements.

Your public declaration of these sentiments cannot fail to produce the happiest effects in the present important conjuncture.

Resolved by the House of Commons, Dec. 20, 1792,

THAT an humble address be presented to his Majesty, humbly desiring his Majesty to direct, that there be laid before this House a copy, or extract, of the instructions sent to Earl Gower, his Majesty's ambassador to the most Christian King, signifying his Majesty's pleasure that he should quit Paris.

Copy of a Letter written to Earl Gower, English Ambassador at Paris, by Mr. Dundas, and delivered to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, dated Whitehall, the 17th of August, 1792, and referred to in the above Resolution,

My Lord,

IN Lord Grenville's absence, I have received and laid before the King your last dispatches.

His Majesty has been very deeply afflicted in receiving the information of the extent and the deplorable consequences of

the troubles which have happened in Paris, as well on account of his *personal attachment to their most Christian Majesties and the interest that he has always taken in their welfare* as for the earnest desire he has for the tranquillity and prosperity of a kingdom with which he is on terms of friendship.

As it appears, that in the present state of affairs, the exercise of the executive power has been withdrawn from his most Christian Majesty, the credentials which have hitherto been made use of by your excellency *can no longer be valid*. His Majesty is, therefore, of opinion, that you ought not to remain any longer in Paris, as well on this account, as because this step appears to him the most conformable to the principles of neutrality which he has hitherto observed. His Majesty's pleasure, therefore, is, that you should quit that city, and return to England, as soon as you shall have been able to procure the necessary passports for that purpose.

In all the conversations that you may have occasion to hold before your departure, you will take care to express yourself in a manner conformable to the sentiments herein communicated to you; and you will take especial care not to neglect any opportunity of declaring, that at the same time his Majesty means to observe the principles of neutrality in every thing which regards the arrangement of the internal government of France: he does not conceive that he *departs from these principles in manifesting, by every possible means in his power, his solicitude for the personal situation of their most Christian Majesties and the royal family*. He most earnestly hopes that his wishes in that respect will not be deceived; that the royal family will be preserved from every act of violence; *the commission of which would not fail to excite sentiments of universal indignation throughout all Europe*.

I have the honour to be, &c. &c.

HENRY DUNDAS.

Message from his Majesty to both Houses of Parliament, Jan. 28,
1793.

GEORGE REX.

HIS Majesty has given directions for laying before the House of Commons copies of several papers which have been received from Mr. Chauvelin, late minister plenipotentiary from the most Christian King, by his Majesty's secretary of state for foreign affairs, and of the answers returned thereto; and likewise a copy of an order made by his Majesty in council, and transmitted by his Majesty's commands to the said Mr.

Mr. Chauvelin, in consequence of the accounts of the atrocious act recently perpetrated at Paris.

In the present situation of affairs, his Majesty thinks it indispensably necessary to make a farther augmentation of his forces by sea and land; and relies on the known affection and zeal of the House of Commons to enable his Majesty to take the most effectual measures, in the present important conjuncture, for maintaining the security and rights of his own dominions, for supporting his allies; and for opposing views of aggrandizement and ambition on the part of France, which would be at all times dangerous to the general interests of Europe, but are peculiarly so when connected with the propagation of principles which lead to the violation of the most sacred duties, and are utterly subversive of the peace and order of all civil society.

G. R.

Resolved by the House of Lords, Feb. 1, 1793,

THAT an humble address be presented to his Majesty, to return his Majesty the thanks of this House for his most gracious message, and for the communication of the papers which, by his Majesty's command, have been laid before us: to offer to his Majesty our heart-felt condolence on the atrocious act lately perpetrated at Paris, which must be viewed by every nation in Europe as an outrage on religion, justice, and humanity, and as a striking and dreadful example of the effect of principles which lead to the violation of the most sacred duties, and are utterly subversive of the peace and order of all civil society.

To assure his Majesty, that it is impossible for us not to be sensible of the views of aggrandizement and ambition which, in violation of repeated and solemn professions, have been openly manifested on the part of France, and which are connected with the propagation of principles incompatible with the existence of all just and regular government: that, under the present circumstances, we consider a vigorous and effectual opposition to those views and principles as essential to the security of every thing which is most dear and valuable to us as a nation, and to the future tranquillity and safety of all other countries.

That, impressed with these sentiments, we shall, with the utmost zeal and alacrity, afford his Majesty the most effectual assistance, to enable his Majesty to make a farther augmentation of his forces by sea and land, and to act as circumstances may require in the present important conjuncture, for main-

taining the security and honour of his crown, for supporting the just rights of his allies, and for preserving to his people the undisturbed enjoyment of the blessings which, under the divine Providence, they derive from the British constitution.

Resolved by the House of Commons, Feb. 1, 1793,

THAT an humble address be presented to his Majesty, to return his Majesty the thanks of this House for his most gracious message, and for the communication of the papers which, by his Majesty's command, have been laid before us.

To offer to his Majesty our heart-felt condolence on the atrocious act lately perpetrated at Paris, which must be viewed by every nation in Europe as an outrage on religion, justice, and humanity, and as a striking and dreadful example of the effect of principles which lead to the violation of the most sacred duties, and are utterly subversive of the peace and order of all civil society.

To assure his Majesty, that it is impossible for us not to be sensible of the views of aggrandizement and ambition which, in violation of repeated and solemn professions, have been openly manifested on the part of France, and which are connected with the propagation of principles incompatible with the existence of all just and regular government: that, under the present circumstances, we consider a vigorous and effectual opposition to these views as essential to the security of every thing which is most dear and valuable to us as a nation, and to the future tranquillity and safety of all other countries.

That, impressed with these sentiments, we shall, with the utmost zeal and alacrity, afford his Majesty the most effectual assistance, to enable his Majesty to make a farther augmentation of his forces by sea and land, and to act as circumstances may require, in the present important conjuncture, for maintaining the security and honour of his crown, for supporting the just rights of his allies, and for preserving to his people the undisturbed enjoyment of the blessings which, under the divine Providence, they derive from the British constitution.

Message from his Majesty to both Houses of Parliament, Feb. 11, 1793.

GEORGE REX.

HIS Majesty thinks proper to acquaint the House of Commons, that the assembly now exercising the powers of government in France, have, without previous notice, directed acts of hostility to be committed against the persons and property of his Majesty's subjects, in breach of the law of nations, and of the most positive stipulations of treaty; and have since, on the most groundless pretences, actually declared war against his Majesty and the United Provinces. Under the circumstances of this wanton and unprovoked aggression, his Majesty has taken the necessary steps to maintain the honour of his crown, and to vindicate the rights of his people; and his Majesty relies with confidence on the firm and effectual support of the House of Commons, and on the zealous exertions of a brave and loyal people, in prosecuting a just and necessary war; and in endeavouring, under the blessing of Providence, to oppose an effectual barrier to the farther progress of a system which strikes at the security and peace of all independent nations, and is pursued in open defiance of every principle of moderation, good faith, humanity, and justice.

In a cause of such general concern, his Majesty has every reason to hope for the cordial co-operation of those powers who are united with his Majesty by the ties of alliance, or who feel an interest in preventing the extension of anarchy and confusion, and in contributing to the security and tranquillity of Europe.

G. R.

Address by the House of Lords to his Majesty, Feb. 12, 1793.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Lords spiritual and temporal, in Parliament assembled, return your Majesty our humble thanks for your most gracious message.

We assure your Majesty, that we have learnt, with a just sentiment of indignation, that the assembly who now exercise the powers of government in France have directed, without previous notice, the commission of acts of hostility against the persons and property of your Majesty's subjects, in breach of

the law of nations, and of the most positive stipulations of treaty; and that they have since, on the most groundless pretences, actually declared war against your Majesty and the United Provinces. That, under the circumstances of this perfidious and unprovoked aggression, we are grateful to your Majesty for the steps which your Majesty has taken to maintain the honour of your crown, and to vindicate the rights of your people: that nothing will be wanting on our part that can contribute to that firm and effectual support which your Majesty has so much reason to expect from a brave and loyal people, in the prosecution of this just and necessary war, and in endeavouring, under the blessing of Providence, to oppose an effectual barrier to the farther progress of a system which strikes at the security and peace of all independent nations, and is pursued in open defiance of every principle of moderation, good faith, humanity, and justice.

We assure your Majesty that, deeply as we feel the happiness of our country interested in the result of this contest, it must afford us the greatest satisfaction to learn that, in a cause of such general concern, your Majesty has reason to hope for the cordial co-operation of those powers who are united with your Majesty by the ties of alliance, or who feel an interest in preventing the extension of anarchy and confusion, and contributing to the security and tranquillity of Europe.

His Majesty's most gracious Answer.

My Lords,

I RETURN you my hearty thanks for this very dutiful and affectionate address.

I receive, with the greatest satisfaction, the assurances of your firm and effectual support in the prosecution of the just and necessary war in which I am engaged, in consequence of the unprovoked aggression of France; and I trust that, by the blessing of Providence, my efforts will be rendered successful, for maintaining the rights of my people, preventing the extension of anarchy, and contributing to the future security of Europe.

Resolved by the House of Commons, Feb. 12, 1793,

THAT an humble address be presented to his Majesty, to return his Majesty the thanks of this House for his most gracious message, informing us, that the assembly, now exercising the powers of government in France, have, without previous notice, directed acts of hostility to be committed against the persons and property of his Majesty's subjects, in breach of the law of nations and of the most positive stipulations of treaty; and have since, on the most groundless pretences, actually declared war against his Majesty and the United Provinces: to assure his Majesty that, under the circumstances of this wanton and unprovoked aggression, we most gratefully acknowledge his Majesty's care and vigilance in taking the necessary steps for maintaining the honour of his crown, and vindicating the rights of his people: that his Majesty may rely on the firm and effectual support of the representatives of a brave and loyal people, in the prosecution of a just and necessary war, and in endeavouring, under the blessing of Providence, to oppose an effectual barrier to the farther progress of a system which strikes at the security and peace of all independent nations, and is pursued in open defiance of every principle of moderation, good faith, humanity, and justice.

That, in a cause of such general concern, it must afford us great satisfaction to learn that his Majesty has every reason to hope for the cordial co-operation of those powers who are united with his Majesty by the ties of alliance, or who feel an interest in preventing the extension of anarchy and confusion, and in contributing to the security and tranquillity of Europe.

That we are persuaded that whatever his Majesty's faithful subjects must consider as most dear and sacred, the stability of our happy constitution, the security and honour of his Majesty's crown, and the preservation of our laws, our liberty, and our religion, are all involved in the issue of the present contest; and that our zeal and exertions shall be proportioned to the importance of the conjuncture, and to the magnitude and value of the objects for which we have to contend.

His Majesty's most gracious Answer.

Gentlemen,

I RETURN you my warmest thanks for this affectionate and loyal address, and for the cordial assurances of your firm and effectual support in the measures which may be necessary for maintaining the honour of my crown, and for prosecuting with vigour a just and necessary war, in defence of the dearest interests of my people.

His Majesty's most gracious Speech, June 21, 1793.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

THE firmness, wisdom, and public spirit, by which your conduct has been eminently distinguished on the many important occasions which have arisen during the present session, demand my peculiar acknowledgments.

Your firm determination to support the established constitution, and the zealous and general concurrence in that sentiment, which my subjects have so strongly and seasonably manifested, could not fail to check every attempt to disturb the internal repose of these kingdoms, and you will, I doubt not, in your several counties, encourage the continuance of the same vigilant attention to that important object.

The rapid and signal successes which, in an early period of the campaign, have attended the operations of the combined armies, the respectable and powerful force which you have enabled me to employ by sea and land, and the measures which I have concerted with other powers for the effectual prosecution of the war, afford the best prospect of a happy issue to the important contest in which we are engaged: it is only by perseverance in vigorous exertions, and by endeavouring to improve the advantages already acquired, that we can hope to obtain the great end to which my views are uniformly directed, the restoration of peace on such terms as may be consistent with our permanent security and with the general tranquillity of Europe.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I return you my particular thanks for the cheerfulness and dispatch with which you have granted the necessary supplies; and I am happy to reflect that you have been enabled liberally to provide for the exigencies of the public service in a manner so little burdensome to my people.

My

My Lords and Gentlemen,

The arrangements which you have formed for the government of the British territories in India, and for the regulation of our commerce with that part of the world, will, I doubt not, secure and augment the important benefits which we have already derived from those valuable possessions. It has been impossible for me to see, without concern, the embarrassment which has lately arisen in the state of commercial credit; but the steps which you have taken to prevent the progress of that evil appear already to have been productive of very salutary consequences; and while they have afforded a striking instance of your attention to the interests of my people, their effect has furnished additional reason to believe that the distress which has been felt proceeded from a concurrence of temporary causes, and not from any diminution of the real wealth, or any failure in the permanent resources of the country.

I have much satisfaction in reflecting on the effectual protection which I have been enabled to afford to the trade of my subjects since the breaking out of the war; I am, at the same time, persuaded that, if our commercial interests had unavoidably been affected to a more considerable extent, it would not have been forgotten that we are contending for our future security and for the permanent preservation of advantages, the most striking and the most valuable which any nation has ever, by the blessing of Providence, been permitted to enjoy.

Then the Lord Chancellor, by his Majesty's command, said,

My Lords and Gentlemen,

IT is his Majesty's royal will and pleasure, that this Parliament be prorogued to Tuesday, the 12th day of August next, to be then there holden; and this Parliament is accordingly prorogued to Tuesday, the 13th day of August next.

His Majesty's most gracious Speech, Jan. 22, 1794.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

THE circumstances under which you are now assembled, require your most serious attention.

We are engaged in a contest on the issue of which depend the maintenance of our constitution, laws, and religion, and the security of all civil society.

You

You must have observed, with satisfaction, the advantages which have been obtained by the arms of the allied powers, and the change which has taken place in the general situation of Europe since the commencement of the war. The United Provinces have been protected from invasion; the Austrian Netherlands have been recovered and maintained; and places of considerable importance have been acquired on the frontiers of France. The recapture of Mentz, and the subsequent successes of the allied armies on the Rhine, have, notwithstanding the advantages recently obtained by the enemy in that quarter, proved highly beneficial to the common cause.—Powerful efforts have been made by my allies in the south of Europe; the temporary possession of the town and port of Toulon has greatly distressed the operations of my enemies; and in the circumstances attending the evacuation of that place, an important and decisive blow has been given to their naval power, by the distinguished conduct, abilities, and spirit of my commanders, officers, and forces, both by sea and land.

The French have been driven from their possessions and fishery at Newfoundland, and important and valuable acquisitions have been made both in the East and West Indies.

At sea our superiority has been undisputed, and our commerce so effectually protected, that the losses sustained have been inconsiderable, in proportion to its extent, and to the captures made on the contracted trade of the enemy.

The circumstances by which the farther progress of the allies has hitherto been impeded, not only prove the necessity of vigour and perseverance on our part, but at the same time confirm the expectation of ultimate success.

Our enemies have derived the means of temporary exertion from a system which has enabled them to dispose arbitrarily of the lives and property of a numerous people, and which openly violates every restraint of justice, humanity, and religion; but these efforts, productive as they necessarily have been of internal discontent and confusion in France, have also tended rapidly to exhaust the natural and real strength of that country.

Although I cannot but regret the necessary continuance of the war, I should ill consult the essential interests of my people, if I were desirous of peace on any grounds but such as may provide for their permanent safety, and for the independence and security of Europe. The attainment of these ends is still obstructed by the prevalence of a system in France, equally incompatible with the happiness of that country, and with the tranquillity of all other nations.

Under this impression, I thought proper to make a declaration of the views and principles by which I am guided. I have
ordered

ordered a copy of this declaration to be laid before you, together with copies of several conventions and treaties with different powers, by which you will perceive how large a part of Europe is united in a cause of such general concern.

I reflect with unspeakable satisfaction on the steady loyalty and firm attachment to the established constitution and government, which, notwithstanding the continued efforts employed to mislead and to seduce, have been so generally prevalent among all ranks of my people. These sentiments have been eminently manifested in the zeal and alacrity of the militia to provide for our internal defence, and in the distinguishing bravery and spirit displayed on every occasion by my forces both by sea and land; they have maintained the lustre of the British name, and have shewn themselves worthy of the blessings which it is the object of all our exertions to preserve.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I have ordered the necessary estimates and accounts to be laid before you, and I am persuaded you will be ready to make such provision as the exigencies of the time may require. I feel too sensibly the repeated proofs which I have received of the affection of my subjects, not to lament the necessity of any additional burdens. It is, however, a great consolation to me to observe the favourable state of the revenue, and the complete success of the measure which was last year adopted for removing the embarrassments affecting commercial credit.

Great as must be the extent of our exertions, I trust you will be enabled to provide for them in such a manner as to avoid any pressure which could be severely felt by my people.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

In all your deliberations, you will undoubtedly bear in mind the true grounds and origin of the war.

An attack was made on us and on our allies, founded on principles which tend to destroy all property, to subvert the laws and religion of every civilized nation, and to introduce universally that wild and destructive system of rapine, anarchy, and impiety, the effects of which, as they have already been manifested in France, furnish a dreadful but useful lesson to the present age and to posterity.

It only remains for us to persevere in our united exertions; their discontinuance or relaxation could hardly procure even a short interval of delusive repose, and could never terminate in security or peace. Impressed with the necessity of defending all that is most dear to us, and relying, as we may with confidence, on the valour and resources of the nation, on the combined

bined efforts of so large a part of Europe, and above all, on the incontestable justice of our cause, let us render our conduct a contrast to that of our enemies, and by cultivating and practising the principles of humanity and the duties of religion, endeavour to merit the continuance of the Divine favour and protection which have been so eminently experienced by these kingdoms.

Address of the House of Lords to his Majesty, Jan. 22, 1794.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Lords spiritual and temporal, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to return your Majesty our humble thanks for your Majesty's most gracious speech from the throne.

Permit us to assure your Majesty, that we shall enter with the most serious attention into the consideration of the present circumstances of our country, knowing that on the issue of the contest in which we are engaged depend the maintenance of our constitution, laws, and religion, and the security of all civil society.

We congratulate your Majesty on the advantages which have been obtained by the arms of the allied powers, and on the favourable change which has taken place in the general situation of Europe, since the commencement of the war. We have seen with great satisfaction the United Provinces protected from invasion, the Austrian Netherlands recovered and maintained, and places of considerable importance acquired on the frontiers of France: we consider the re-capture of Mentz, and the subsequent successes of the allied armies on the Rhine, as having, notwithstanding the late advantages of the enemy in that quarter, proved highly beneficial to the common cause; and we are also justly sensible of the powerful efforts which have been made by your Majesty's allies in the south of Europe.

We reflect with particular satisfaction on the manner in which the operations of your Majesty's enemies have been impeded during so great a part of the campaign by the temporary possession of the town and port of Toulon; on the important and decisive blow which, in the evacuation of that place, has been given to their naval power, and on the distinguished conduct, abilities, and spirit manifested on that occasion by your Majesty's commanders, officers, and forces, both by sea and land.

We beg leave to express the satisfaction which we also feel in seeing that during the course of the present year the French have been driven from their possessions and fishery at Newfoundland;

land; that important and valuable acquisitions have been made both in the East and West Indies; and that while our naval superiority has been undisputed, our commerce has been so fully and effectually protected.

We can assure your Majesty that we are strongly impressed both with the necessity of vigorous and persevering exertions, and with the expectations of ultimate success from the consideration of the means by which the further progress of the allies has hitherto been impeded, and of the system from which our enemies have derived the means of temporary exertion; such a system, disposing arbitrarily of the lives and property of a numerous people, and violating every restraint of justice, humanity, and religion, has necessarily been productive of internal discontent and confusion, and has tended rapidly to exhaust the natural and real strength of that country.

While we join with your Majesty in regretting the necessary continuance of the war, we are confident that your Majesty's concern for the essential interests of your people will induce your Majesty to persevere in the pursuit of those objects by which alone the solid blessings of peace can be secured; and to take such measures as may most effectually provide for the permanent safety of your Majesty's people, and for the independence and security of Europe. It is impossible for us not to see that the attainment of these ends is still obstructed by the prevalence of a system in France, equally incompatible with the happiness of that country, and with the tranquillity of all other nations; and under this impression, we fully concur in the just and benevolent sentiments manifested in the declaration which your Majesty has graciously been pleased to communicate to us; and we have seen with the utmost satisfaction so large a part of Europe united in a cause of such general concern.

We acknowledge, with pride and gratitude, the gracious manner in which your Majesty is pleased to express your Majesty's sense of the unshaken loyalty and firm attachment to the established constitution and government, which, notwithstanding the continued efforts employed to mislead and to seduce, have been so generally prevalent among all ranks of your Majesty's subjects. The zeal and alacrity of the militia, and the distinguished bravery displayed on every occasion by his Majesty's forces, both by sea and land, have afforded eminent proofs of the same spirit which pervades and animates every class of the nation; and encouraged as your Majesty's forces have been, by the distinguished example of your Majesty's illustrious progeny, and by the sense of the blessings which it is the object of all our exertions to preserve, they have maintained the

the lustre of the British name, and have shewn themselves worthy of the cause in which they are employed.

We intreat your Majesty to be persuaded, that in all our deliberations we shall bear in mind the true grounds and origin of the war. We remember with just indignation the attack made on your Majesty and your Majesty's allies, grounded on principles which tend to destroy all property, to subvert the laws and religion of every civilized nation, and to introduce universally that wild and destructive system of rapine, anarchy, and impiety, the effects of which, as they have already been manifested in France, furnish a dreadful but useful lesson to the present age and to posterity.

We will, on our parts, persevere with union and vigour in our exertions, sensible that by discontinuing or relaxing the present efforts we could hardly procure even a short interval of delusive repose, and could certainly never obtain either security or peace. Deeply impressed with the necessity of defending all that is most dear to us, and relying with confidence on the valour and resources of our country, on the combined efforts of so large a part of Europe, and above all, on the incontestable justice of our cause, we will afford to your Majesty all possible support in the just and necessary system in which your Majesty is embarked; and we trust that all classes of your Majesty's subjects will endeavour, by cultivating and practising the principles of humanity and the duties of religion, to merit the continuance of the Divine favour and protection which have been so eminently experienced by these kingdoms.

His Majesty's most gracious Answer,

My Lords,

I RETURN you my warmest acknowledgments for this very dutiful and loyal address. The sentiments you express respecting the present important situation of public affairs, and the zeal and union you have manifested in support of those measures which can alone tend to maintain the dearest interests of my people, and to secure the tranquillity and independence of Europe, cannot fail of producing the happiest effects, both at home and abroad. You may be assured that nothing shall be wanting on my part to employ with energy and vigour, in a cause of such deep concern, those resources which I derive from the wisdom and firmness of my Parliament, and from the general attachment of my people to the constitution and government of their country, and to the interests of humanity, order, and religion, throughout all Europe.

Address of the House of Commons to his Majesty, Jan. 23, 1794.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons of Great Britain, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to return your Majesty our humble thanks for your most gracious speech from the throne.

The circumstances under which we are assembled will not fail to command our most serious attention, as we are sensible that on the issue of the contest in which we are engaged, depend the maintenance of our constitution, laws, and religion, and the security of all civil society.

We have observed with satisfaction the advantages which have been obtained by the arms of the allied powers in different parts of Europe, and the change which has taken place in the general situation of affairs upon the continent since the commencement of the war; and we must, in a particular manner, congratulate your Majesty on the valuable possessions which have been acquired from the enemy; on the undisputed superiority at sea which has enabled your Majesty to afford such effectual protection to the commerce of your subjects, and on the important and decisive blow which has been given to the naval power of your enemies, under circumstances which reflect the highest honour upon the conduct, abilities, and spirit of your Majesty's commanders, officers, and forces, both by sea and land.

The system from which our enemies have derived the means of temporary exertion, founded as it is upon the violation of every principle of justice, humanity, and religion, evidently productive of internal discontent and confusion in France, and tending rapidly to exhaust the natural and real strength of that country, appears to prove in the strongest manner, the necessity of vigour and perseverance on our part, and to afford in itself a just expectation of ultimate success.

We must undoubtedly join with your Majesty in regretting the necessary continuance of the war; but we are persuaded that it would be inconsistent with the essential interests of your Majesty's subjects to look to the restoration of peace on any grounds but such as may provide for their permanent safety, and for the independence and security of Europe: and it is impossible for us not to perceive that the attainment of these ends is obstructed by the prevalence of a system in France, equally incompatible with the happiness of that country, and with the tranquillity of all other nations.

We acknowledge your Majesty's goodness in having directed to be laid before us copies of the declaration which your Majesty has thought proper to issue, and also of the several conventions and treaties which your Majesty has concluded.

We most cordially rejoice that your Majesty has so much reason to reflect with satisfaction on the steady loyalty and firm attachment to the established constitution and government, which, notwithstanding the continued efforts employed to mislead and to seduce, have been so generally prevalent amongst all ranks of your Majesty's subjects. The zeal and alacrity of the militia to provide for our internal defence, and the distinguished bravery and spirit displayed on every occasion, by your Majesty's forces, both by sea and land, are the natural result of these sentiments, and might well be expected from a brave and free people, animated by the example of your Majesty's illustrious progeny, and sensible of the value of those blessings which it is the object of all our exertions to preserve.

Although we must, at all times, lament the necessity of any additional burdens, we feel it our indispensable duty to make a speedy and ample provision for the public service; and we shall endeavour to defray those expences which the exigencies of the time must require, in such a manner as to avoid, as far as possible, any pressure which could be severely felt by the nation.

Your Majesty may be assured, that in all our deliberations we can never lose sight of the true grounds and origin of the war. We have been called upon, by every motive of duty and self-preservation, to repel an attack made upon your Majesty and your allies, founded upon principles which tend to destroy all property, to subvert the laws and religion of every civilized nation, and to introduce universally that wild and destructive system of rapine, anarchy, and impiety, the effects of which, as they have already been manifested in France, furnish a dreadful, but useful lesson to the present age, and to posterity.

We are sensible that the discontinuance or relaxation of our exertions could hardly procure even a short interval of delusive repose, and could never terminate in security or peace: and we trust that all your Majesty's subjects, impressed with the necessity of defending whatever is most dear to them, and relying with confidence on the valour and resources of their country, on the combined efforts of so large a part of Europe, and, above all, on the incontestable justice of their cause, will study to render their conduct a contrast to that of their enemies; and by cultivating and practising the principles of humanity and the duties of religion, will endeavour to merit the continuance of the Divine favour and protection which have been so eminently experienced by these kingdoms.

His

His Majesty's most gracious Answer.

Gentlemen,

I RETURN you my most cordial thanks for this loyal and affectionate address.

It is with great satisfaction that I receive the assurances of your continued and decided support, in the prosecution of the just and necessary war in which we are engaged.

This full and explicit declaration of your sentiments cannot fail to produce the most salutary effects in the present important conjuncture.

Message from his Majesty, Jun. 27, 1794.

GEORGE REX.

HIS Majesty thinks it proper to acquaint the House of Commons, that a corps of Hessian troops taken into the pay of Great Britain, to be employed on foreign service, having been brought to the appointed place of rendezvous off the Isle of Wight, his Majesty has found it necessary, with a view to the preventing any sickness taking place among the said troops from their continuance on board of the transports, to order them to be disembarked, and to be stationed, for the present, on the Isle of Wight, at Portsmouth, and at places adjacent,

G. R.

Message from his Majesty, March 25, 1794.

GEORGE REX.

HIS Majesty thinks it proper to acquaint the House of Commons, that, for the purpose of more effectually guarding against any attempt which may be made on the part of the enemy, to execute their professed design of invading this kingdom, his Majesty has ordered a further augmentation of his land forces, the estimate for which he has directed to be laid before the House. It is also his Majesty's intention to take measures in order to be able, in case of emergency, to assemble speedily a large additional force in any part of the kingdom where it may become necessary; and his Majesty relies, with confidence, on the cordial and effectual support of Parliament, and on the zealous and spirited exertions of his people, in carrying into execution such measures as may be requisite for the general security.

G. R.

Message from his Majesty, April 4, 1794.

GEORGE REX.

HIS Majesty recommends it to the House of Commons to take into consideration the propriety of making provision for the better management of the land revenue of the crown.

G. R.

Message from his Majesty, April 28, 1794.

GEORGE REX.

HIS Majesty has ordered copies of a treaty which has been signed at the Hague, by the plenipotentiaries of his Majesty and the States General of the United Provinces on the one part, and by the plenipotentiary of the King of Prussia on the other part; and likewise of a convention agreed upon between the respective plenipotentiaries of his Majesty and the States General, to be laid before the House: and his Majesty, relying on the zealous and affectionate support of his faithful Commons, in the vigorous prosecution of the war in which he is engaged, recommends it to this House to consider of making provision towards enabling his Majesty to fulfil the engagements which his Majesty has entered into, as well as to defray any extraordinary expences which may be incurred for the service of the present year, and to take such measures as the exigency of affairs may require.

G. R.

Message from his Majesty, May 12, 1794.

GEORGE REX.

HIS Majesty having received information that the seditious practices which have been for some time carried on by certain societies in London, in correspondence with societies in different parts of the country, have lately been pursued with increased activity and boldness, and have been avowedly directed to the object of assembling a pretended general convention of the people, in contempt and defiance of the authority of Parliament, and on principles subversive of the existing laws and constitution, and directly tending to the introduction of that system of anarchy and confusion which has fatally prevailed in France, has given directions for seizing the books and papers of the said societies in London, which have been seized accordingly; and these books and papers appearing to contain matter

matter of the greatest importance to the public interest, his Majesty has given orders for laying them before the House of Commons; and his Majesty recommends it to the House to consider the same, and to take such measures thereupon as may appear to be necessary for effectually guarding against the further prosecution of those dangerous designs, and for preserving to his Majesty's subjects the enjoyment of the blessings derived to them by the constitution happily established in these kingdoms.

G. R.

Joint Address of both Houses to his Majesty, May 15, 1794.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Lords spiritual and temporal, and Commons, in Parliament assembled, having taken into our most serious consideration the communications which your Majesty has been pleased to make to us, respecting designs against the public peace and safety, carried on within this realm, think it our bounden duty at this period, humbly to lay before your Majesty those sentiments to which we are led by the result of that examination.

We have seen with the utmost concern and indignation, that there has existed within this realm a seditious and traitorous conspiracy, directed to the subversion of the authority of your Majesty and your Parliament, and to the utter destruction of the established constitution and government of these your Majesty's kingdoms; and that for the execution of those wicked and detestable designs, means of open violence were preparing, and acts meditated, leading to all the horrors of insurrection, anarchy, and rebellion.

That with the fullest conviction of these designs, thus deliberately entertained, openly avowed, and on the very point of being attempted to be executed, we feel ourselves bound to express to your Majesty our gratitude for the paternal care which your Majesty has shewn for the dearest interells of your people, in having taken such measures as might best tend to defeat all such purposes, and to bring the authors and abettors of them to public justice.

We have on our part proceeded without delay, after the example of our ancestors, and under the just impression of the exigency of such a situation, to vest in your Majesty, by law, such additional powers as seem best calculated to provide for the public peace and tranquillity: and we rely with confidence on your Majesty's employing all legal and constitutional means for the punishment of such crimes; for the suppression of the

first appearance of any tumult or disorder connected with them ; and generally for the giving, as the circumstances manifestly require, full energy and vigour to the execution of the laws by which all your Majesty's subjects are equally protected, and from which alone they can derive the secure enjoyment of property, of liberty, and of life itself.

And we beg leave to assure your Majesty, that as we are determined to defend with resolution and vigour, against our foreign enemies, the rights of your Majesty's crown, the safety and welfare of our country, and the existence of good order and civil society, so we will, on every occasion, afford to your Majesty the fullest support and assistance in maintaining inviolate the free constitution of these realms, in preserving internal peace and tranquillity, and in resisting the desperate purposes of those who would introduce among us the miseries which now prevail in France ; such being the conduct which we feel to be due from us, as faithful and affectionate subjects, and as men deeply impressed with the value of the blessings which we enjoy.

His Majesty's most gracious Speech, July 11, 1794.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

THE state of public business enables me to close this session of Parliament, in doing which I have again to acknowledge that assiduity and zeal for the interests of my people, of which you had before given me so many proofs, and which have been so particularly manifested in the present year.

I am persuaded that you entertain too just a sense of the nature and importance of the contest in which we are engaged, to suffer your zeal to be abated, or your perseverance shaken, by the recent successes of the enemy in the Netherlands.

In a moment which so strongly calls for energy and vigour, it is peculiarly gratifying to me to reflect on the uniform skill and bravery of my fleets and armies, the undaunted spirit and unwearied exertions of my officers and troops in every situation, and the general public spirit of my people, which have never at any period been more conspicuous.

I have observed with the highest satisfaction the rapid and valuable acquisitions made in the East and West Indies, the successful operations which have been carried on in the Mediterranean, and the brilliant and decisive victory obtained by my fleet under the command of Earl Howe, an event which must ever be remembered as one of the most glorious in the naval history of this country.

Gen-

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I return you my warmest thanks for the cheerfulness and liberality with which you have granted the large supplies which were necessary for the service of the year, and for the maintenance of a cause equally important to the security and happiness of every class of my subjects.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I feel it incumbent upon me particularly to acknowledge your diligence in the investigation of the designs which had been formed against the government and constitution of these kingdoms, and to thank you for the confidence you have reposed in me on this occasion. It will be a principal object of my attention to make a vigorous and prudent use of the additional powers vested in me for the protection and security of my people; and relying, as I do, with the utmost confidence, on the uniform loyalty and public spirit of the great body of my subjects, I have no doubt of speedily and effectually repressing every attempt to disturb the public peace, and of defeating the wicked designs which have been in agitation.

It must not, however, be forgotten, that these designs against our domestic happiness are essentially connected with the system now prevailing in France, of which the principles and spirit are irreconcilably hostile to all regular and established government; and that we are therefore called upon by every consideration of our own internal safety to continue our efforts in conjunction with my allies, and to persevere with increased vigour and exertion in a contest, from the successful termination of which we can alone expect to establish on a solid and permanent foundation the future security and tranquillity either of this country, or of the other nations of Europe.

The Lord Chancellor, by his Majesty's command, said,

My Lords and Gentlemen,

IT is his Majesty's royal will and pleasure that this Parliament be prorogued to Tuesday, the 19th day of August next, to be then here holden: and this Parliament is accordingly prorogued to Tuesday, the 19th day of August next.

His Majesty's most gracious Speech, Dec. 30, 1794.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

AFTER the uniform experience which I have had of your zealous regard for the interests of my people, it is a great satisfaction to me to recur to your advice and assistance, at a period which calls for the full exertion of your energy and wisdom.

Notwithstanding the disappointments and reverses which we have experienced in the course of the last campaign, I retain a firm conviction of the necessity of persisting in a vigorous prosecution of the just and necessary war in which we are engaged.

You will, I am confident, agree with me, that it is only from firmness and perseverance that we can hope for the restoration of peace on safe and honourable grounds, and for the preservation and permanent security of our dearest interests.

In considering the situation of our enemies, you will not fail to observe, that the efforts which have led to their successes, and the unexampled means by which alone those efforts could have been supported, have produced among themselves the pernicious effects which were to be expected; and that every thing which has passed in the interior of the country has shewn the progressive and rapid decay of their resources, and the instability of every part of that violent and unnatural system, which is equally ruinous to France, and incompatible with the tranquillity of other nations.

The States General of the United Provinces have, nevertheless, been led, by a sense of present difficulties, to enter into negotiations for peace with the party now prevailing in that unhappy country. No established government or independent state can, under the present circumstances, derive real security from negotiations: on our part, they could not be attempted without sacrificing both our honour and safety to an enemy whose chief animosity is avowedly directed against these kingdoms.

I have, therefore, continued to use the most effectual means for the further augmentation of my forces; and I shall omit no opportunity of concerting the operations of the next campaign with such of the powers of Europe as are impressed with the same sense of the necessity of vigour and exertion. I place the fullest reliance on the valour of my forces, and on the affection and public spirit of my people, in whose behalf I am contending, and whose safety and happiness are the objects of my constant solicitude.

The local importance of Corlica, and the spirited efforts of its inhabitants to deliver themselves from the yoke of France, determined me not to withhold the protection which they sought for; and I have since accepted the crown and sovereignty of that country, according to an instrument, a copy of which I have directed to be laid before you.

I have great pleasure in informing you that I have concluded a treaty of amity, commerce, and navigation, with the United States of America, in which it has been my object to remove, as far as possible, all grounds of jealousy and misunderstanding, and to improve an intercourse beneficial to both countries. As soon as the ratifications shall have been exchanged, I will direct a copy of this treaty to be laid before you, in order that you may consider of the propriety of making such provisions as may appear necessary for carrying it into effect.

I have the greatest satisfaction in announcing to you the happy event of the conclusion of a treaty for the marriage of my son, the Prince of Wales, with the Princess Caroline, daughter of the Duke of Brunswick. The constant proofs of your affection for my person and family persuade me that you will participate in the sentiments I feel on an occasion so interesting to my domestic happiness, and that you will enable me to make provision for such an establishment as you may think suitable to the rank and dignity of the heir apparent to the crown of these kingdoms.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

The considerations which prove the necessity of a vigorous prosecution of the war will, I doubt not, induce you to make a timely and ample provision for the several branches of the public service, the estimates for which I have directed to be laid before you. While I regret the necessity of large additional burdens on my subjects, it is a just consolation and satisfaction to me, to observe the state of our credit, commerce, and resources, which is the natural result of the continued exertions of industry under the protection of a free and well-regulated government.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

A just sense of the blessings now so long enjoyed by this country will, I am persuaded, encourage you to make every effort which can enable you to transmit those blessings unimpaired to your posterity.

I entertain a confident hope that, under the protection of Providence, and with constancy and perseverance on our part, the principles of social order, morality, and religion, will ultimately

mately be successful; and that my faithful people will find their present exertions and sacrifices rewarded by the secure and permanent enjoyment of tranquillity at home, and by the deliverance of Europe from the greatest danger with which it has been threatened since the establishment of civilized society.

Address of the House of Lords to his Majesty, Dec. 30, 1794.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Lords spiritual and temporal, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to return your Majesty our humble thanks for your most gracious speech from the throne.

We eagerly embrace the first opportunity of laying before your Majesty our dutiful and respectful congratulations on the auspicious event of the conclusion of the treaty for the marriage of his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, with the Princess Caroline of Brunswick. While we partake in the gratification which must arise to your Majesty on an occasion so interesting to your Majesty's domestic happiness, and to that of the illustrious and amiable Prince, whose virtues are so justly dear to us, we look forward, with the utmost satisfaction, to the hope, that, in a long and uninterrupted line of descent, this country may continue to enjoy the blessings which it has experienced under your Majesty's paternal government, and under the auspicious reigns of the sovereigns of the House of Brunswick.

We beg leave to assure your Majesty, that we shall, with the utmost cheerfulness, concur in enabling your Majesty to make provision for such an establishment as may be suitable to the rank and dignity of the heir apparent of these kingdoms.

Permit us to assure your Majesty, that, notwithstanding the disappointments and reverses of the last campaign, we concur with your Majesty in a firm conviction of the necessity of persisting in a vigorous prosecution of the present just and necessary war; being persuaded that the attainment of a just and honourable peace, and the preservation and permanent security of all our dearest interests, are only to be hoped for from firmness and perseverance; that, impressed with these sentiments, we derive additional encouragement from observing that the measures adopted by our enemies have produced among themselves the pernicious effects which were to be expected from them; and that every thing which has passed in that country, has manifested the rapid decay of their resources, and the instability of every part of that violent and unnatural system, which is
equally

equally ruinous to France, and incompatible with the tranquillity of other states.

Whatever may be the issue of the negotiations into which the United Provinces have been induced to enter, we are persuaded that no established government or independent state can, under the present circumstances, derive real security from such negotiations; and that, on our part, they could not be attempted without the sacrifice of our honour and safety to an enemy whose chief animosity is directed against these kingdoms. In this state of affairs, we are sensible of the necessity of your Majesty's having continued to use effectual means for the further augmentation of your forces; and we rely on your Majesty's omitting no opportunity of concerting the operations of the next campaign with such of the powers of Europe as are impressed with the same sense of the necessity of vigour and exertion; and we trust that the valour of your Majesty's forces, and the public spirit of the British nation, will enable your Majesty to provide effectually for the interests and safety of your faithful people, in whose behalf your Majesty is now contending, and for whose happiness your Majesty has ever shewn the most paternal care and solicitude.

We return your Majesty our grateful thanks for the communication which your Majesty has been pleased to direct to be made to us of the instrument by which your Majesty has accepted the crown and sovereignty of Corsica; fully sensible that the local importance of that island, and the spirited efforts of its inhabitants to deliver themselves from the yoke of France, have justly determined your Majesty not to withhold the protection which they fought for.

We beg leave to express to your Majesty our satisfaction in learning that a treaty of amity, commerce, and navigation, has been concluded between your Majesty and the United States of America; and to assure your Majesty, that we shall willingly concur in such measures as may best tend to remove the grounds of jealousy and misunderstanding, and to improve an intercourse beneficial to both countries.

We treat your Majesty to be persuaded, that a just sense of the blessings we have now so long enjoyed, will animate us to every effort which can enable us to transmit those blessings unimpaired to our posterity; and that it is our earnest and confident hope that, under the protection of the divine Providence, and with constancy and perseverance on our part, the principles of social order, morality, and religion, will ultimately be successful; and that your Majesty's faithful people may find their present exertions and sacrifices rewarded by the secure and permanent enjoyment of tranquillity at home, and by the deli-
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verance of Europe from the greatest danger with which it has been threatened since the establishment of civilized society.

His Majesty's most gracious Answer.

My Lords,

I THANK you for this very loyal and dutiful address, and particularly for your congratulations to me on the approaching marriage of my son, the Prince of Wales.

The expressions of your zeal for the honour of my crown, and for the prosperity and safety of my people, and your assurances of concurrence and support in that line of conduct from which, alone, in the actual situation of affairs, we can derive either present security or future tranquillity, cannot but be highly satisfactory to me. The firmness and perseverance of Parliament, and the spirit and energy of my people, will, I doubt not, lead to a prosperous and successful termination of this great contest.

Address of the House of Commons to his Majesty, Dec. 30, 1794.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons of Great Britain, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to return your Majesty the thanks of this House for your most gracious speech from the throne; to assure your Majesty, that it is equally our duty and our anxious desire to second your Majesty's views for the welfare of your people, at this important crisis, by our best advice and assistance; that, much as we must desire the restoration of peace, on safe and honourable grounds, we join with your Majesty in thinking that it is only from firmness and perseverance that we can hope for the attainment of that end, and for the preservation and permanent security of our dearest interests; and that, notwithstanding the disappointments and reverses which have been experienced in the course of the last campaign, we retain a firm conviction of the necessity of persisting in the vigorous prosecution of the just and necessary war in which we are engaged; from considering the situation of our enemies, we are persuaded that the efforts which have led to their successes, and the unexampled means by which those efforts have been supported, have produced, among themselves, the pernicious effects which were to be expected from them; and that the circumstances which have taken place in the interior of the country, afford strong marks of the progressive

greffive and rapid decay of their resources, and of the instability of every part of that violent and unnatural system which is equally ruinous to France, and incompatible with the tranquillity of other nations.

Although a sense of present difficulties has led the States General of the United Provinces to enter into negotiations for peace with the party now prevailing in France, we are fully sensible how little real security any established government or independent state can derive, under the present circumstances, from the result of such negotiations; and we are convinced that they could not be attempted, on our part, without sacrificing both our honour and safety to an enemy whose chief animosity is avowedly directed against these kingdoms.

We cannot but applaud your Majesty's determination to use the most effectual means for the further augmentation of your forces, and to omit no opportunity of concerting the operations of the next campaign with such of the powers of Europe as are impressed with the same sense of the necessity of vigour and exertion.

We are persuaded your Majesty may, at all times, justly rely on the valour of your forces by sea and land, and on the affection and public spirit of your people, contending for their essential interests, and deeply sensible of your Majesty's parental solicitude for their happiness and welfare.

We acknowledge your Majesty's goodness in having directed the instrument by which you have accepted the crown and sovereignty of Corsica to be laid before us; and we are sensible that the local importance of that island, and the spirited efforts of its inhabitants, naturally recommended them to your Majesty's protection.

It gives us great pleasure to learn that your Majesty has concluded a treaty with the United States of America, with the view of removing, as far as possible, all grounds of jealousy and misunderstanding, and of improving an intercourse beneficial to both countries; and that we shall be ready, as soon as the treaty is laid before us, to consider of the necessary provisions for carrying it into effect.

We cannot sufficiently express the satisfaction which all your Majesty's subjects must derive from the auspicious event of the conclusion of a treaty for the marriage of his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales with the Princess Caroline, daughter of the Duke of Brunswick; and that, participating warmly in the sentiments which your Majesty must feel on an occasion not less connected with the interests of your people than with the domestic happiness of your Majesty, we shall cheerfully proceed to enable your Majesty to make provision for an establishment

ment fuitable to the rank and dignity of the heir apparent to the crown of these kingdoms.

The considerations which prove the necessity of a vigorous prosecution of the war cannot fail to induce us to make a timely and ample provision for the several branches of the public service; and while we feel the painful necessity of imposing additional burdens on our constituents, it is a just consolation and satisfaction to us to learn, that the state of our credit, commerce, and resources, is such as might naturally be expected to result from the continued exertions of industry, under the protection of a free and well-regulated government.

Entertaining a just sense of the blessings now so long enjoyed by this country, we feel it incumbent upon us to make every effort which can enable us to transmit those blessings unimpaired to our posterity; and we cordially join with your Majesty in a confident hope that, under the protection of Providence, and with constancy and perseverance on our part, the principles of social order, morality, and religion, will ultimately be successful; and that your Majesty's faithful subjects will find their present exertions and sacrifices rewarded by the secure and permanent enjoyment of tranquillity at home, and by the deliverance of Europe from the greatest danger with which it has been threatened since the establishment of civilized society.

His Majesty's most gracious Answer.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I RETURN you my most cordial thanks for this loyal and dutiful address, and for the affectionate sentiments which you express on the approaching marriage of my son, the Prince of Wales.

The assurances of your continued and zealous support in the important contest in which we are engaged afford me the greatest satisfaction. Your firmness and perseverance, and the spirit and exertions of my people, can alone lead to a successful and honourable termination of the war, and to the firm establishment of general tranquillity.

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'Message from his Majesty, Feb. 4, 1795.

GEORGE REX.

HIS Majesty thinks it proper to acquaint the House, that he has received from the Emperor strong assurances of a disposition to make the greatest exertions for the common cause in the course of the next campaign. But it is represented on the part of his Imperial Majesty, that these efforts cannot be made without the assistance of a loan, which his Imperial Majesty is desirous of raising on the credit of the revenues of his hereditary dominions, under the guarantee of his Majesty, with the concurrence of Parliament, to the extent of four millions, and it is stated, that such loan, in addition to his other resources, would enable his Imperial Majesty to employ against the common enemy the force of 200,000 effective men. His Majesty is of opinion that, on these ground, such an arrangement would be beneficial to the common cause, but ~~thinks~~ that it would be still more advantageous, if, by the means of a similar loan to a larger extent, the Emperor should be enabled to employ a force still more considerable; and his Majesty has desired his minister at Vienna, to express his readiness to recommend to his Parliament an arrangement founded on that principle. Some temporary advance which his Majesty was induced to make for the immediate supply of the Austrian army, under the pressure of unforeseen circumstances in the latter part of the last campaign, will be included in any arrangement of this nature; as soon as the negotiation is concluded, his Majesty will not fail to communicate the result to Parliament; but as any measure of this sort is necessarily connected with the consideration of the provision to be made for the current service of the year, his Majesty has thought it right not to delay making this communication; and he relies on the zeal and public spirit of his faithful Commons, for taking such measures, as, on full consideration of all the circumstances they may think most conducive to the immediate interests of this country, at the present conjuncture, and to the great object of re-establishing, on secure and honourable grounds, the peace and tranquillity of these kingdoms and of Europe.

Resolved by the House of Commons, Feb. 5, 1795,

THAT an humble address be presented to his Majesty to return his Majesty the thanks of this House for his most gracious message, and for his condescension and goodness in
having

having been pleased to communicate the state of the negotiation in which his Majesty is engaged with the Emperor ;

To assure his Majesty that when his Majesty shall be enabled, according to his gracious intention, to lay before us the result of that negotiation, and the arrangement relative to the temporary advances made by his Majesty in the latter part of the last campaign, we shall proceed to take the subject into our further consideration with the serious attention which it will deserve : that in the mean time we think it our duty to express to his Majesty the strong sense we entertain of the advantages which might be derived to the common cause from the vigorous co-operation of a powerful Austrian army in the next campaign ; and to offer our humble opinion to his Majesty, that if it should appear likely that that advantage may be effectually secured by enabling his Majesty to guarantee, under proper conditions, a loan, to be raised by the Emperor, ~~to such~~ an amount as may be thought reasonable, and proportioned to the extent of his efforts, the adoption of such a measure may be essentially conducive to the immediate interests of his Majesty's subjects at this conjuncture, and to the great object of re-establishing, on a secure and permanent foundation, the peace and tranquillity of these kingdoms, and of Europe.

A SIMILAR resolution was passed in the House of Lords.

Address of the House of Commons to his Majesty, April 10, 1795.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons of Great Britain, in Parliament assembled, most humbly beg leave to congratulate your Majesty on the nuptials of his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales ; and to express the cordial satisfaction which your Majesty's faithful Commons feel on an event, which promises to gratify the wishes of your Majesty's faithful subjects, by augmenting the domestic felicity of your Majesty and your illustrious family, and by affording additional security to the enjoyment of those blessings which have been experienced in these kingdoms, under the auspicious government of the Princes of the House of Brunswick.

A SIMILAR address was presented by the House of Peers.

His Majesty's most gracious Answer.

I RECEIVE with the most cordial satisfaction this dutiful and loyal address as a fresh proof of your attachment to my person and family, and of the warm interest you take in whatever concerns my domestic happiness.

Message from his Majesty, April 27, 1795.

GEORGE REX.

HIS Majesty relies on the liberality and affection of his faithful Commons, and in the cordial interest which they have manifested in the happy event of the nuptials of the Prince and Princess of Wales, that they will be ready to concur in such provision as they may judge necessary, to enable his Majesty to settle an establishment for the Prince and Princess, suited to their rank and dignity.

On an occasion, in all other respects so satisfactory, his Majesty feels the deepest regret in being under the necessity of communicating to the House, that the benefit of any settlement to be now made, cannot be effectually secured to the Prince of Wales, without providing the means of freeing him from incumbrances to a large amount, to which he is now subject.

Anxious as his Majesty must necessarily be, particularly under the present circumstances, to relieve the Prince of Wales from these difficulties, his Majesty entertains no idea of proposing to his Parliament to make any provision for this object, otherwise than by the application of a part of the income which may be settled on the Prince; but he earnestly recommends it to the House, to consider of the propriety of thus providing for the gradual discharge of these incumbrances, by appropriating and securing for a given term, the revenues arising from the Duchy of Cornwall, together with a proportion of the Prince's other annual income; and his Majesty will be ready and desirous to concur in any provisions which the wisdom of Parliament may suggest, for the purposes of establishing a regular and punctual order of payment, in the Prince's future expenditure, and of guarding against the possibility of the Prince being again involved in so painful and embarrassing a situation.

G. R.

His Majesty's most gracious Speech, June 27, 1795.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

THE zealous and uniform regard which you have shewn to the general interests of my people, and particularly the prudent, firm, and spirited support, which you have continued to afford me, in the prosecution of the great contest in which we are still unavoidable engaged, demand our warmest acknowledgments.

The encouragement which my allies must derive from the knowledge of your sentiments, and the extraordinary exertions which you have enabled me to make, in supporting and augmenting my naval and military forces, afford the means most likely to conduce to the restoration of peace to these kingdoms, and to the re-establishment of general tranquillity, on a secure, an honourable, and a lasting foundation.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I have to return you my hearty thanks for the liberal and ample supplies, which the resources of the country have enabled you to provide, beyond all former example, for the various exigencies of the public service.

I have also to acknowledge, with peculiar sensibility, the recent proof which you have given me of your attachment to my person and family, in the provision which you have made for settling the establishment of the Prince and Princess of Wales, and for extricating the Prince from the incumbrances in which he was involved.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

It is impossible to contemplate the internal situation of the enemy with whom we are contending, without indulging an hope that the present circumstances of France may, in their effects, hasten the return of such a state of order and regular government as may be capable of maintaining the accustomed relations of amity and peace with other powers.

The issue, however, of these extraordinary transactions, is out of the reach of human foresight.

Till that desirable period arrives, when my subjects can be restored to the secure enjoyment of the blessings of peace, I shall not fail to make the most effectual use of the force which you have put into my hands.

It is with the utmost satisfaction that I have recently received the advices of an important and brilliant success obtained over the enemy by a detachment of my fleet, under the able conduct of Lord Bridport.

I have every reason to rely on the continuance of the distinguished bravery and conduct of my fleet and armies, as well as of the zeal, spirit, and perseverance of my people, which have been uniformly manifested through the whole course of this just and necessary war.

Then the Lord Chancellor, by his Majesty's command, said,

My Lords and Gentlemen,

IT is his Majesty's royal will and pleasure that this Parliament be prorogued to Thursday, the 5th day of August next, to be then here holden; and this Parliament is accordingly prorogued to Thursday, the 5th day of August next.

His Majesty's most gracious Speech, October 29, 1795.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

IT is a great satisfaction to me to reflect, that, notwithstanding the many events unfavourable to the common cause, the prospect resulting from the general situation of affairs has, in many important respects, been materially improved in the course of the present year.

In Italy, the threatened invasion of the French has been prevented, and they have been driven back from a considerable part of the line of coast which they had occupied.— There is also reason to hope, that the recent operations of the Austrian armies have checked the progress which they had made on the side of Germany, and frustrated the offensive projects which they were pursuing in that quarter.

The successes which have attended their military operations in other parts of the campaign, and the advantages which they have derived from the conclusion of separate treaties with some of the powers who were engaged in the war, are far from compensating the evils which they experience from its continuance. The destruction of their commerce, the diminution of their maritime power, and the unparalleled embarrassment and distress of their internal situation, have produced the impression which was naturally to be expected; and a general sense appears to prevail throughout France, that the only relief from the increasing pressure of these difficulties must arise from the restoration of peace, and the establishment of some settled system of government.

The distraction and anarchy which have so long prevailed in that country have led to a crisis, of which it is as yet impos-

sible to foresee the issue; but which must, in all human probability, produce consequences highly important to the interests of Europe. Should this crisis terminate in any order of things compatible with the tranquillity of other countries, and affording a reasonable expectation of security and permanence in any treaty which might be concluded, the appearance of a disposition to negotiate for general peace, on just and suitable terms, will not fail to be met, on my part, with an earnest desire to give it the fullest and speediest effect. But I am persuaded you will agree with me, that nothing is so likely to insure and accelerate this desirable end, as to shew that we are prepared for either alternative, and are determined to prosecute the war with the utmost energy and vigour, until we have the means of concluding, in conjunction with our allies, such a peace as the justice of our cause and the situation of the enemy may entitle us to expect.

With this view I am continuing to make the greatest exertions for maintaining and improving our naval superiority, and for carrying on active and vigorous operations in the West Indies, in order to secure and extend the advantages which we have gained in that quarter, and which are so nearly connected with our commercial resources and maritime strength.

I rely with full confidence on the continuance of your firm and zealous support, on the uniform bravery of my fleets and armies, and on the fortitude, perseverance, and public spirit, of all ranks of my people.

The acts of hostility committed by the United Provinces, under the influence and controul of France, have obliged me to treat them as in a state of war with this country.

The fleet which I have employed in the North Seas has received the most cordial and active assistance from the naval force furnished by the Empress of Russia, and has been enabled effectually to check the operations of the enemy in that quarter.

I have concluded engagements of defensive alliance with the two Imperial Courts; and the ratifications of the treaty of commerce with the United States of America, which I announced to you last year, have now been exchanged. I have directed copies of these treaties to be laid before you.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

It is matter of deep concern to me, that the exigencies of the public service will require farther additions to the heavy burdens which have been unavoidably imposed on my people. I trust that their pressure will, in some degree, be alleviated by the flourishing state of our commerce and manufactures, and that our expences, though necessarily great in their amount, will,

will, under the actual circumstances of the war, admit of considerable diminution in comparison of those of the present year.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I have observed for some time past, with the greatest anxiety, the very high price of grain, and that anxiety is increased by the apprehension, that the produce of the wheat harvest in the present year may not have been such as effectually to relieve my people from the difficulties with which they have had to contend. The spirit of order and submission to the laws which, with very few exceptions, has manifested itself under this severe pressure, will, I am sure, be felt by you as an additional incentive to apply yourselves with the utmost diligence to the consideration of such measures as may tend to alleviate the present distress, and to prevent, as far as possible, the renewal of similar embarrassments in future. Nothing has been omitted, on my part, that appeared likely to contribute to this end; and you may be assured of my hearty concurrence in whatever regulations the wisdom of Parliament may adopt, on a subject so peculiarly interesting to my people, whose welfare will ever be the object nearest my heart.

Address of the House of Lords to his Majesty, Oct. 31, 1795.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Lords spiritual and temporal, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to return your Majesty our humble thanks for your Majesty's most gracious speech from the throne.

We beg leave to assure your Majesty, that we see with great pleasure, that, notwithstanding many events unfavourable to the common cause, a material improvement in the general prospect of affairs appears to have taken place in the course of the present year; and particularly, that the threatened invasion of Italy has been prevented, and that the offensive projects, which the French were pursuing on the side of Germany, have been frustrated by the recent operations of the Austrian army. We are sensible, that the advantages which our enemies have derived from the successes which have attended their military operations in other parts of the campaign, and from the conclusion of separate treaties of peace, are far from compensating the evils they experience from the continuance of the war; and it is particularly satisfactory to us to observe, with your Majesty, the impression which has been produced by the destruction of their commerce, the diminution of their naval

strength, and the distress of their internal situation, as well as the general sense which appears to prevail in France, of the necessity of peace and settled government, in order to relieve the increasing pressure of these difficulties.

While we feel the uncertainty of the issue of the crisis to which the distraction and anarchy of France have now led, we are fully sensible of the important consequences which it must probably produce. If this crisis should terminate in any order of things compatible with the tranquillity of other countries, and affording a reasonable expectation of security and permanence in any treaty which might be concluded, we should see with pleasure a disposition in the enemy to treat for general peace, on just and suitable terms; and in the gracious declaration of your Majesty's views in that respect, we recognise the same paternal attention to the welfare of your Majesty's subjects, which we have had so many occasions to see with gratitude; but we should very ill discharge our duty to your Majesty and to our country, if we did not readily concur in every measure which may be necessary to convince our enemies that we are prepared for either alternative, and are determined to support your Majesty in the vigorous prosecution of the war, till your Majesty shall be enabled to conclude, in conjunction with your allies, such a peace as the justice of our cause and the situation of the enemy may entitle your Majesty to expect: and we are sensible how important it is, for these objects, to maintain and improve our naval superiority, and to secure and extend the advantages obtained in the West Indies, so nearly connected with our commercial resources and maritime strength.

Permit us to assure your Majesty, that, while we regret the necessity under which your Majesty has found yourself, of treating the United Provinces as in a state of war, we learn, with much satisfaction, the cordial and active assistance afforded by the naval force furnished to your Majesty by the Emperors of Russia.

We return your Majesty our grateful thanks for the communication which your Majesty has been pleased to direct to be made to us, of the defensive engagements concluded by your Majesty with the two Imperial Courts, and of the treaty with the United States of America.

We beg leave to assure your Majesty, that we are deeply sensible of the paternal sentiments expressed by your Majesty respecting the difficulties arising to your Majesty's subjects from the high price of grain: we have the highest pleasure in reflecting on the gracious manner in which your Majesty is pleased to express your sense of the spirit of order and submission to the laws, which, with very few exceptions, has
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continued to manifest itself under this severe pressure: and we entreat your Majesty to be persuaded, that we shall not fail to apply ourselves, with the utmost diligence, to the consideration of such measures as may tend to alleviate the present distress, and to prevent the renewal of it in future. Relying with the utmost confidence on the concurrence of your Majesty in such remedies as may be found practicable, in a concern so important to the welfare of your Majesty's subjects, which we know, from long experience, to be always the object nearest to your Majesty's heart.

His Majesty's most gracious Answer.

My Lords,

I RECEIVE with the greatest pleasure this very loyal and dutiful address.

The sense which you entertain of the present situation and prospect of affairs, and the assurances you give me of your support in that line of conduct which I have judged it necessary to pursue, must produce the best effects with a view to either of the alternatives to which the present crisis may lead.

My exertions shall be unremittingly employed to maintain the honour and essential interest of my kingdoms, and promote the welfare and prosperity of my people.

Address by the House of Commons to his Majesty, Oct. 31, 1795.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons of Great Britain, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to return your Majesty our humble thanks for your most gracious speech from the throne.

We participate in the satisfaction your Majesty feels from reflecting, that notwithstanding the many events unfavourable to the common cause, the prospect resulting from the general situation of affairs has, in many important respects, been materially improved in the course of the present year.

We derive great pleasure from observing the events which have taken place in Italy, and from finding reason to hope, that a check has been given to the progress of the French on the side of Germany by the recent operations of the Austrian army.

In contemplating the situation of our enemies, we cannot but be sensible, that the successes which have, in some parts of the campaign, attended their military operations, and the

advantages which they have derived from the conclusion of separate treaties with some of the powers who were engaged in the war, cannot compensate for the evils which they experience from its continuance: and it is natural to suppose, that the destruction of their commerce, the diminution of their maritime power, and the unparalleled embarrassment and distress of their internal situation, must have produced a general sense, that the only relief from the increasing pressure of their difficulties must arise from the restoration of peace, and the establishment of some settled system of government.

We are well aware how impossible it is to foresee the issue of the extraordinary crisis which has arisen in that country; but we receive, with the truest satisfaction, your Majesty's gracious declaration, that should it terminate in any order of things compatible with the tranquillity of other countries, and affording a reasonable expectation of security and permanence in any treaty which might be concluded, the appearance of a disposition to negotiate for general peace on just and suitable terms will not fail to be met, on the part of your Majesty, with an earnest desire to give it the fullest and speediest effect.

We, at the same time, cordially join with your Majesty in the persuasion, that nothing is so likely to insure and accelerate this desirable end, and to provide for the permanent interests of your kingdom, as to shew that we are prepared for either alternative, and that we are determined to prosecute the war with the utmost energy and vigour, until your Majesty has the means of concluding, in conjunction with your allies, such a peace as the justice of the cause in which we are engaged, and the situation of the enemy, may entitle us to expect.

Impressed with these sentiments, we shall feel it our duty to give your Majesty our firmest and most decided support in your Majesty's farther exertions, and particularly in those which are directed to the maintenance and improvement of our naval superiority, and for securing and extending the advantages which have been gained in the West Indies, and which are so nearly connected with our commercial resources and maritime strength: and we are persuaded, your Majesty may securely rely on the uniform and unshaken bravery of your fleets and armies, and on the fortitude, perseverance, and public spirit of all ranks of your people.

While we cannot but lament that the influence and controul exercised by France over the United Provinces, should have produced acts of hostility, which have obliged your Majesty to treat them as in a state of war with this country, it must, at the same time, afford us much satisfaction to learn, that the fleet which your Majesty has employed in the North Seas, has
received

received the most cordial and active assistance from the naval force furnished by the Empress of Russia, and has been enabled effectually to check the operations of the enemy in that quarter.

We acknowledge your Majesty's condescension, in having directed to be laid before us copies of the engagements of defensive alliance which your Majesty has concluded with the two Imperial Courts; and of the treaty with the United States of America.

Although we must at all times see, with regret, the necessity of making farther additions to the heavy burdens which have unavoidably been imposed on our constituents, we feel it an indispensable duty to make such provision for the different branches of the public service, as the exigency of affairs may require; and it will afford us great satisfaction to find that the pressure of these burdens is, in some degree, alleviated by the flourishing state of our commerce and manufactures, and that our expences will, under the actual circumstances of the war, admit of considerable diminution in comparison with those of the present year.

We are deeply sensible of your Majesty's paternal goodness in the expressions of the anxiety with which your Majesty has observed the high price of grain, and of your apprehension that the produce of the wheat harvest, in the present year, may not have been such as effectually to relieve your people from the difficulties with which they have had to contend. The spirit of order and submission to the laws, which, with few exceptions, has manifested itself under this severe pressure, will undoubtedly be felt by us as an additional incentive to apply ourselves with the utmost diligence to the consideration of such measures as may tend to alleviate the present distress, and to prevent, as far as possible, the renewal of similar embarrassments: and nothing can afford us a higher gratification, than to find ourselves enabled to adopt such regulations as may give effect to your Majesty's gracious and benevolent views for the relief and advantage of your people, on a subject so peculiarly interesting to their welfare.

His Majesty's most gracious Answer,

Gentlemen,

I THANK you for this very loyal and dutiful address.

It affords me the greatest satisfaction to learn, that you concur in the view which I entertain of the general situation and prospect of affairs, and to receive the assurances of your
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firm and decided support in those exertions which are most likely to ensure and accelerate the restoration of peace, on such grounds as the justice of our cause, and the situation of the enemy, may entitle us to expect.

Nothing shall be omitted, on my part, to make an effectual use of the means which you may put into my hands, for a purpose so important to the permanent interests and happiness of my people.

Joint Address of both Houses to his Majesty, Oct. 31, 1795.

Most Gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Lords spiritual and temporal, and Commons, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to approach your Majesty, humbly to express to your Majesty our indignation and abhorrence at the daring outrages offered to your Majesty in your Majesty's passage to and from your Parliament. We cannot reflect, without the utmost concern, that there should be found, within your Majesty's dominions, any persons so insensible of the happiness which all your Majesty's subjects derive from your Majesty's just and mild government, and of the virtues which so eminently distinguish your Majesty's character, as to be capable of these flagitious acts: and we beg leave humbly to lay before your Majesty the earnest wishes of your faithful Lords and Commons, in which we are confident we shall be joined by all descriptions of your Majesty's subjects, that you will be graciously pleased to direct the most effectual measures to be taken, without delay, to discover the authors and abettors of crimes so atrocious.

His Majesty's most gracious Answer.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I RECEIVE, with great pleasure, this additional proof of your uniform zeal and loyalty. I have too much reason to be assured of the affectionate and steady attachment of my people at large, to have felt any other sentiment upon this occasion than that of concern at so high a violation of the laws. I shall not fail to give such directions as may best tend to bring to justice and punishment the persons concerned in an offence so dangerous to the public tranquillity, and so injurious to our excellent constitution.

Message from his Majesty, Dec. 7, 1795.

GEORGE REX.

HIS Majesty thinks proper to inform his faithful Commons, that a considerable sum is likely to arise from the sale of prizes taken from the United Provinces of Holland, and that he has ordered the amount to be ascertained, and the overplus, after the claims of the captors had been discharged, to be applied to the public service. G. R.

Resolved by the House of Commons, Dec. 7, 1795,

THAT an humble address be presented to his Majesty, thanking him for his tender concern in manifesting to the House his desire of applying the said money to the public service, after defraying the claims of the captors; and that such of the members as were of his Majesty's most honourable privy council should present the same.

Message from his Majesty to both Houses, Dec. 8, 1795.

GEORGE REX.

HIS Majesty, relying on the assurances which he has received from his faithful Commons, of their determination to support his Majesty in those exertions which are necessary under the present circumstances, recommends it to this House to consider of making provision towards enabling his Majesty to defray any extraordinary expences which may be incurred for the service of the ensuing year, and to take such measures as the exigencies of affairs may require. His Majesty, on this occasion, thinks proper to acquaint the House, that the crisis which was depending at the commencement of the present session, has led to such an order of things in France, as will induce his Majesty, conformably to the sentiments which he has already declared, to meet any disposition for negotiation on the part of the enemy, and with an earnest desire to give it the fullest and speediest effect, and to conclude a treaty for a general peace, whenever it can be effected on just and suitable terms for himself and his allies.

It is his Majesty's earnest wish, that the spirit and determination manifested by Parliament, added to the recent and important successes of the Austrian armies, and to the continued and growing embarrassments of the enemy, may speedily
conduce

conduce to the attainment of this object, on such grounds as the justice of the cause in which this country is engaged, and the situation of affairs may entitle his Majesty to expect.

G. R.

Resolved by the House of Commons, Dec. 9, 1795.

TO acknowledge, with the utmost gratitude and satisfaction, his Majesty's condescension and goodness, in having been graciously pleased to acquaint us, that the crisis which was depending at the commencement of the session, has led to such an order of things in France, as will induce his Majesty, conformably to the sentiments he had already declared, to meet any disposition for negotiation on the part of the enemy, with an earnest desire to give it the fullest and speediest effect, and to conclude a treaty of general peace whenever it can be effected on just and suitable terms for himself and his allies.

To assure his Majesty, that until that desirable period shall arrive, it is our firm determination to continue to afford his Majesty that vigorous support which we are persuaded is essential to the most important interests of his kingdom, and that it will yield us the highest gratification if his Majesty's powerful preparations and exertions, added to the recent and important successes of the Austrian armies, and to the continued and growing embarrassments of the enemy, should have the happy effect of speedily conducing to the restoration of general peace on such grounds as the justice of the cause in which this country is engaged, and the situation of affairs may entitle his Majesty to expect.

An Address, in answer to his Majesty's Message, was moved in the House of Lords, similar to the Address that had been moved in the House of Commons.

Message from his Majesty to both Houses, Dec. 8, 1795.

GEORGE REX.

HIS Majesty thinks proper to acquaint the House of Commons, that a considerable division of ships, having on board foreign troops in the service of Great Britain, having been dispersed and damaged while on their passage from the rivers Elbe and Weser to Spithead, the place of rendezvous appointed for the convoy under which it was intended they should be sent on distant foreign service, his Majesty has found it unavoidably necessary to order the said troops to be disembarked, and to be stationed in barracks near Southampton, and

and in the Isle of Wight; and at the same time has given directions that they shall be re-embarked, and sent to the place of their destination, as soon as the transports necessary for their accommodation and conveyance shall be in readiness to receive them, the necessary orders for that purpose having, by his Majesty's command, been already given.

G. R.

A similar message was sent to the House of Lords.

His Majesty's most gracious Speech, May 19, 1796.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

THE public business being now concluded, I think it proper to close this session, and, at the same time, to acquaint you with my intention of giving immediate directions for calling a new Parliament.

The objects which have engaged your attention during the present session have been of peculiar importance; and the measures which you have adopted, have manifested your continued regard to the safety and welfare of my people.

The happiest effects have been experienced from the provisions which you have made for repressing sedition and civil tumult, and for restraining the progress of principles subversive of all established government.

The difficulties arising to my subjects from the high price of corn, have formed a principal object of your deliberation; and your assiduity in investigating that subject has strongly proved your anxious desire to omit nothing which could tend to the relief of my people in a matter of such general concern. I have the greatest satisfaction in observing, that the pressure of those difficulties is in a great degree removed.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I must, in a more particular manner, return you my thanks for the liberal supplies which you have granted to meet the exigencies of the war. While I regret the extent of those demands which the present circumstances necessarily occasion, it is a great consolation to me, to observe the increasing resources by which the country is enabled to support them. These resources are particularly manifested in the state of the different branches of the revenue, in the continued and progressive state of our navigation and commerce, in the steps which have been taken for maintaining and improving the public credit, and in the additional provision which has been made for the reduction of the national debt.

My

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I shall ever reflect with heartfelt satisfaction on the uniform wisdom, temper, and firmness, which have appeared in all your proceedings since I first met you in this place. Called to deliberate on the public affairs of your country in a period of foreign and domestic tranquillity, you had the happiness of contributing to raise this kingdom to a state of unexampled prosperity. You were suddenly compelled to relinquish the full advantages of this situation, in order to resist the unprovoked aggression of an enemy whose hostility was directed against all civil society, but more particularly against the happy union of order and liberty established in these kingdoms. The nature of the system introduced into France, afforded to that country, in the midst of its calamities, the means of exertion beyond the experience of any former time. Under the pressure of the new and unprecedented difficulties arising from such a contest, you have shewn yourselves worthy of all the blessings that you inherit. By your counsels and conduct, the constitution has been preserved inviolate against the designs of foreign and domestic enemies; the honour of the British name has been asserted; the rank and station which we have hitherto held in Europe has been maintained; and the decided superiority of our naval power has been established in every quarter of the world.

You have omitted no opportunity to prove your just anxiety for the re-establishment of general peace on secure and honourable terms; but you have, at the same time, rendered it manifest to the world, that while our enemies shall persist in dispositions incompatible with that object, neither the resources nor the spirit of Englishmen will be wanting to the support of a just cause, and to the defence of all their dearest interests.

A due sense of this conduct is deeply impressed on my heart. I trust, that all my subjects are animated with the same sentiment, and that their loyalty and public spirit will ensure the continuance of that union and mutual confidence between me and my Parliament, which best promote the true dignity and glory of my crown, and the genuine happiness of my people,

REMEMBRANCES:

OR, A

Complete Collection

OF THE

STANDING ORDERS

OF THE

HOUSE of LORDS

IN

E N G L A N D.

EXTRACTED FROM AND COMPARED WITH THE


JOURNALS OF THE SAID HOUSE.

REMEMBRANCES

FOR

ORDER AND DECENCY,

To be kept in the Upper House of Parliament, by the Lords, when his Majesty is not there, leaving the Solemnity belonging to his Majesty's Coming, to be marshalled by those Lords to whom it more properly appertains.



I. **FIRST**, therefore, the Lords are to sit in the same order as is prescribed by the act of Parliament, except that the Lord Chancellor sitteth on the woollack, as Speaker to the House.

II. The Lord Chancellor, when he speaks to the House, is always to speak uncovered, and is not to adjourn the House, or do any thing else as mouth of the House, without the consent of the Lords first had; excepting the ordinary thing about bills, which are of course, wherein the Lords may likewise over-rule, as for preferring one bill before another, and such like. And in case of difference among the Lords, it is to be put to the question: and if the Lord Chancellor will speak to any thing particularly, he is to go to his own place, as a Peer.

Die Sabbati, 9 Junii, 1660.

III. Ordered by the Lords in Parliament assembled, That it is the duty of the Lord Chancellor, or the Lord Keeper of the Great Seal of England, ordinarily to attend the Lords House of Parliament: and that in case the Lord Chancellor, or Lord Keeper of the Great Seal, be absent from the House of Peers, and that there be none authorised under the Great Seal from the King to supply that place in the House of Peers, the Lords may then chuse their own Speaker during that vacancy.

IV. The Judges and such of the King's privy council (as are called by writ to attend) sitting by, are not to be covered until the Lords give them leave, which they ordinarily signify by the Lord Chancellor; and they being there appointed to attend the House, are not to speak, or deliver any opinion, until it be required, and they be admitted so to do by the major part of the House, in case of difference.

V. The learned counsel, &c. are likewise to attend on the woolfacks, but are never covered.

VI. Those of his Majesty's privy council who are, or shall be called by his Majesty's writ, as the Judges are, are to be used with the same respect the Judges are, which is not to be covered until they shall be admitted so to do by the Lords.

VII. After the issuing the writ of summons, if the Parliament be prorogued to any further day than was appointed for the meeting thereof by the writ of summons, it is done by writ, which is directed to both the Houses; and in that case the Lower House is to be called in, and to stand uncovered below the bar, but not before the Lords be all set; who sitting, and being all covered, the Lord Chancellor uses some words unto them, to let them know the cause of their meeting, which he doth uncovered, in respect he speaks to the Lords as well as the Commons; and after the writ read, the Parliament is accordingly prorogued. But when the Parliament is prorogued at any time after the first meeting thereof, such prorogation is not to be by writ, but by commission directed unto some of the Lords of the Upper House, and the Lord Chancellor first acquainting the House with the purport of such commission, the Lords authorised thereby, or so many of them as are necessary, being in their robes and seated on a form placed between the throne and the woolfack, are to command the Usher of the Black Rod to let the Commons know the Lords Commissioners desire their immediate attendance in the House of Peers, to hear the commission read: and the Commons being come up to the bar of this House, and standing uncovered, the commission is to be read by the clerk; after which the Parliament is to be prorogued in such manner, and to such time, as is commanded by the said commission.

VIII. At the beginning of a Parliament, after prayers said, and the Lord Chancellor shall have taken the oaths appointed to be taken in lieu of the abrogated oaths of supremacy and allegiance, and made, repeated, and subscribed the declaration, and taken and subscribed the oath of abjuration according to the several acts of Parliament made for those purposes; the
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certificate of the clerk of the crown, of the return of the sixteen Peers, who, for that part of Great Britain called Scotland, shall be chosen, summoned, and certified to sit and vote in the House of Peers in the Parliament of Great Britain, shall be read; and then all the Peers and Lords of Parliament present shall, in like manner, take, make, and subscribe, the said oaths and declaration; after which, some bill (*pro forma*) is to be read: which being done, the Lord Chancellor is to report his Majesty's speech from the throne, and then the committee of privileges is to be appointed. And at the beginning of every other session, during the same Parliament, after prayers said, some bill (*pro forma*) is to be read, his Majesty's speech reported, and the committee of privileges appointed.

IX. Every Lord that comes after prayers, if he be a Baron or Bishop, is to pay one shilling; and if he be of any degree above, two shillings to the poor: but every Lord who comes not at all, and makes not his just excuse, is to pay five shillings for every day's absence.

X. Before the House sit, so much respect is to be had to that room as none but members of the House ought to be covered there, not so much as the eldest son of any Peer whatsoever, unless he be called by writ: neither is any other person to stay there, or any attendant of any nobleman, but whilst he brings in his Lord, and then he is to retire himself.

XI. When the House is sat, every Lord that shall enter is to give and receive salutations from the rest, and not to sit down in his place, unless he hath made an obeisance to the cloth of estate.

XII. If there be any difference in the form or style of the writs from the ancient, it is to be examined how it came to pass.

XIII. The Lords of the Upper House are to keep their dignity and order in sitting, as much as may be, and not remove out of their places without just cause, to the hinderance of others that sit near them, and disorder of the House: but when they must needs go cross the House, from one side to the other, they are to make obeisance to the cloth of estate.

XIV. When any Lords speak, they address their speech to the rest of the Lords in general.

XV. To prevent misunderstanding, and for avoiding of offensive speeches, when matters are debating either in the

House or at committees, it is, for honour sake, thought fit, and so ordered, That all personal, sharp, or taxing speeches be forborn; and whosoever answereth another man's speech shall apply his answer to the matter without wrong to the person: and as nothing offensive is to be spoken, so nothing is to be ill taken, if the party that speaks it shall presently make a fair exposition or clear denial of the words that might bear any ill construction. And if any offence be given in that kind, as the House itself will be very sensible thereof, so it will sharply censure the offender, and give the party offended a fit reparation, and a full satisfaction.—*Per Ord.* 12 & 13 Junii, 1626.

Die Luna, 9 Augusti, 1641. Post Meridiem.

XVI. It is this day ordered, by the Lords in Parliament, for avoiding of all mistakes, unkindnesses, or other differences, which may grow to quarrels tending to the breach of peace; That if any Lord shall conceive himself to have received any affront or injury from any other member of the House, either in the Parliament House, or at any committee, or in any of the rooms belonging to the Lords House of Parliament, he shall appeal to the Lords in Parliament for his reparation; which if he shall not do, but occasion or entertain quarrels, declining the justice of the House, then the Lord that shall be found therein delinquent shall undergo the severe censure of the House of Parliament. And this order is to be added to the standing orders of this House.

Die Veneris, 9 Januarii, 1673.

XVII. It is this day ordered and declared, by the Lords spiritual and temporal in Parliament assembled, That when a question hath been entirely put by the Speaker, no Lord is to speak against the question before voting. And it is further ordered, That this rule be entered into the roll of the standing orders of this House.

Die Mercurii, 30 Martii, 1670.

XVIII. Ordered, That if any Lord have occasion to speak with another Lord in this House, while the House is sitting, they are to go together below the bar, or else the Speaker is to stop the business in agitation. And that this order be annexed to the roll of the standing orders of this House.

XIX. No Lord is to speak twice to any bill at one time of reading it, or any other proposition, unless it be to explain himself in some material point of his speech, but to no new
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matter; and that not without the leave of the House first obtained. Every Lord speaks standing and uncovered, and names not members of the House commonly by their names, but the Lord that spake last, last but one, last but two, &c. or some other note of distinction.

XX. In voting, the lowest, after the question is put by the Lord Chancellor, begins first, and every Lord in his turn rises uncovered, and only says, Content, or Not Content.

Die Lunæ, 13 Martii, 1670.

XXI. Ordered, That after a question is put, and the House hath voted thereupon, no Lord is to depart out of his place, unless upon a division of the House, until the House have entered on some other business. And that this order be added to the roll of the standing orders of this House.

Die Mercurii, 25 Novembris, 1691.

XXII. Resolved upon the question, that for the future, when there shall be a division in the House upon any question, the contents shall go below the bar, and the not contents stay within the bar. And it is ordered, That this resolution be added to the roll of standing orders of this House.

XXIII. Bills are seldom opposed at the first reading, and are commonly committed upon motion, at the second reading.

Die Martis, 5 Maii, 1668.

XXIV. Upon report made by the Lord Chamberlain, from the committee of the whole House, concerning the bill for raising three hundred and ten thousand pounds, by an imposition on wines and other liquors; that in regard the said bill being very long, and consisting of many paragraphs, came from the House of Commons, so near the time of adjournment, he was commanded to report it, as the opinion of the committee, that it might be entered into the journal book of this House, that there may be no such argument hereafter used in this House, as was upon this bill (of shortness of time for the passing of bills) to precipitate the passing thereof; but that due consideration may be had hereafter, according to the course of Parliaments. The Lords spiritual and temporal in Parliament assembled, agreed with the report made from the committee, and ordered, That this order be entered on the roll of the standing orders of this House.

Die Mercurii, 9 Dec. 1702.

XXV. Ordered and declared, that the annexing any clause, or clauses, to a bill of aid, or supply, the matter of which is foreign to, and different from the matter of the said bill of aid, or supply, is unparliamentary, and tends to the destruction of the constitution of this government. And it is further ordered, That this order and declaration be added to the roll of standing orders.

Die Martis, 28 Junii, 1715.

XXVI. Ordered and declared, That for the future, no bill shall be read twice the same day. That no committee of the whole House proceed on any bill the same day the bill is committed. That no report be received from any committee of the whole House the same day such committee goes through the bill, when any amendments are made to such bill. And that no bill be read the third time, the same day reported from the committee.

XXVII. It is to be observed, that the first or second day the House be called, and notice to be taken of such Lords, as either have not sent their proxies, or are excused by his Majesty, for some time.

XXVIII. To have more freedom of speech, and that arguments may be used (*pro & contra*) committees are appointed sometimes for bills, sometimes to facilitate and agree of great business, either of the whole House, or of particulars. Committees of the whole House sit in the Upper House, but then the Lord Chancellor sits not upon the woolsack, as a speaker.

XXIX. Every Lord is to sit in his due place, when the House is put into a committee.—*Per Ordinem, 9 Maii 1626.*

XXX. If it shall be desired by any Lord, That the House may be put into a committee, it ought not to be refused.—*Per Ordinem ibidem.*

Die Jovis, 10 Junii, 1714.

XXXI. Ordered and declared, That when the House shall be put into a committee of the whole House, the House be not resumed without the unanimous consent of the committee, unless upon a question put by the Lord who shall be in the chair of such committee.—*Ent. Per Ordinem, 28 Junii, 1715.*

XXXII. If they be a select committee, they usually meet in one of the rooms adjoining to the Upper House, as the Lords like. Any of the Lords of the committee speak to the rest uncovered, but may sit still, if he please. The committees

tees are to be attended by such judges, or learned counsel, as are appointed. They are not to sit there, or be covered, unless it be out of favour for infirmity; some judges sometimes hath a stool set behind, but never covers, and the rest never sit or cover. The Lord Chief Justice Popham did often attend committees, and though he were chief justice, privy counsellor, and infirm, yet would he very hardly ever be persuaded to sit down, saying, it was his duty to stand and attend, and desired the Lords to keep those forms which were their due.

XXXIII. Here it is to be observed, That at any committee of our own, any member of our House, though not of the committee, is not excluded from coming in, and speaking; but he must not vote: as also, he shall give place to all that are of the committee, though of lower degree, and shall sit behind them, and observe the same order, for sitting at a conference, with the Commons.

Die Martii, 5 Aprilis, 1707.

XXXIV. Ordered, That on all reports made, from Committees of a hundred to this, for the future, the Lord that makes the report, do explain to the House, the effect and coherence of each amendment; and that, on the clerk's second reading of the same amendments, the Lord on the woolfack do the same. And this to be added to the roll of standing orders.

XXXV. For our meeting with any of the Lower House, it is either upon occasion of messages, which they send up unto us, or upon conference; when they come up unto us, the manner is thus: after we have notice given us by our usher, that they have sent unto us, they attend, till we have put that business to some end wherein we are; and then we (sitting all covered) send for them in, who stand all at the lowest end of the room; and then the Lord Chancellor (with such a please) riseth, and goeth down to the middle of the bar: then the chief of the committee in the midst, and the rest about him, come up to the bar, with three courtesies, and deliver the message to him; who, after he hath received it, retires himself to his former place, and the House being cleared and settled, he reports it to the Lords, who do help his memory, if any thing be mistaken; and after the Lords have taken resolution, (if the business require any answer) they are either called for in, and approaching to the bar, with three courtesies (as before); and the House sitting in order, and covered (as before) the Lord Chancellor sitting upon the woolfack covered, doth give them their answer, in the name of the House; or else, if the resolution be not so speedy, we send them word by the usher,

that they shall not need to stay for the answer, but we will send it by some express messengers of our own.

XXXVI. Here it is to be noted, that we never send to the Lower House, by any members of our own, but either by some of the learned counsel, masters of the chancery, or such like, which attend us, and, in weighty causes, some of the Judges ; but the Lower House never send unto us any but of their own body.

XXXVII. The place of our meeting with the Lower House, upon conference, is usually the painted chamber, where they are commonly before we come, and expect our leisure. We are to come in thither, in a whole body, and not some Lords scattering before the rest, which both takes from the gravity of the Lords, and besides may hinder the Lords from taking their proper places. We are to sit there, and be covered ; but they are at no committee, or conference, ever either to be covered, or sit down ~~in~~ near presence, unless it be some infirm person, and that by connivance, in a corner, out of sight, to sit, but not to be covered.

XXXVIII. None are to speak at a conference with the Lower House but those that be of the committee ; and when any thing from such conference is reported, all the Lords of that committee are to stand up.

XXXIX. No man is to enter, at any committee, or conference (unless it be such as are commanded to attend) but such as are members of the House, or the heir apparent of a Lord, who has a right to succeed such Lord, or the eldest son of any Peer, who has a right to sit and vote in this House, upon pain of being punished severely, with example to others.

Die Sabbati, 5 Aprilis, 1707.

XL. Upon consideration of the report from the Lords committees for privileges, to whom it was referred, to consider of methods, or orders to prevent the irregularities that often happen in this House : it is ordered, That for the future, none but a Lord, or heir apparent of a Lord, who has a right to succeed such Lord in his place, in this House, or such others as have right to attend in the House, as assistants, shall be in any part of the House, during the sitting of the House. And this to be added to the roll of standing orders.

Die Lunæ, 14 Novembris, 1707.

XLl. The Earl of Rochester reported, from the Lords committees appointed to prepare an order, pursuant to the debate

bate of this House, of the one and twentieth instant, relating to the sons of Peers being in this House, when sitting, the order following, which was read, and agreed to by the House, viz.

That upon consideration of the order of the fifth of April, one thousand seven hundred and seven, and the articles of union; it is this day ordered, That the eldest sons of all the Peers, who have a right to sit and vote in this House, have the same rights and privileges.—*Ent. per Ord.* 26 *Januarii*, 1703.

Die Lunæ, 14 Februarii, 1703.

XLII. The House taking notice, that of late the door-keepers have frequently presumed to come within the doors when the House is sitting, contrary to the rules and orders of the House; it is this day ordered, That for the future, no door-keeper, or door-keepers, attending this House, do presume to come or stay within the doors of this House, when sitting (except particularly ordered so to do.) And ~~this~~ to be added to the roll of standing orders.

XLIII. Ordered, None but noblemen, and the necessary attendants of the House, to come into the lobby, nor the little committee chamber.—*Per Ord.* 23 *Maii*, 1628, *Post*.

XLIV. It would be resolved, what privilege noblemen and peers have, betwixt which this difference is to be observed, That Bishops are only Lords of Parliament, but not Peers; for they are not of trial by nobility: but all Lords of Parliament having privilege for their servants, from arrests, it is to be known for what time before and after the session; as likewise, whether it reach to retainers.

XLV. The clerk is to enter no order, until the Lord-keeper first demand the assent of the House. *Vid. per Lib.* 14 *Decem.* 1621, & 23 *Februarii*, 1623. And the clerk is to read every order first in the House, before it be entered. *Vid. Lib.* 20 *Maii*, 1626.

XLVI. Whereas this high court of the Upper House of Parliament, do often find cause in their judicature, to impose fines, amongst other punishments, upon offenders, for the good example of justice, and to deter others from like offences; it is ordered and declared, that at the least once, before the end of every session, the committees, for the orders of the House and privileges of the Lords of Parliament, do acquaint the Lords with all the fines that have been laid that session, that thereupon their Lordships may use that power, which they justly
have

have, to take off, or mitigate such fines, either wholly or in part, according to the measure of penitence, or ability, in the offenders, or suffer all to stand, as in equity their Lordships shall find fit.

And that until every session be ended, no extreat is to be made of such fines, set or imposed by Parliament, nor any copy thereof to be made by the clerk, without special order, upon public motion, in a full House.—*Per Ord. 3 Aprilis, 1624.*

For the Trials of such Persons as shall be brought before the Lords, and come to Judicature.

XLVII. As this court is the highest, from whence others ought to draw their light, so the proceeding thereof should be most clear, and equal, as well on the one side, in finding out offences, where there is just ground, as on the other side, in affording all just means of defence to such as shall be questioned. And therefore in all cases of moment, the defendants shall have copies of all depositions, both *pro et contra*, after publication, a convenient time before the hearing, to prepare themselves. And also, if the defendants shall demand it of the House, in due time, they shall have their learned counsel to assist them in their defence, whether they be able, by reason of health, to answer in person, or not, so as they chafe counsel void of just exception; and if such counsel shall refuse them, they are to be assigned, as the court shall think fit. Thus their Lordships do, because, in all causes, as well civil, as criminal and capital, they hold, that all lawful helps cannot, before just judges, make one that is guilty avoid justice; and on the other side, God defend that an innocent should be condemned.

XLVIII. As for the calling a member of this high court to the bar, their Lordships hold it fit, to be very well weighed at what time, and for what causes it shall be.—*Per Ord. 28 Maii, 1624.*

XLIX. The privilege of the House is, That no Lord of Parliament, sitting the Parliament, or within the usual times of privilege of Parliament, is to be imprisoned or restrained, without sentence or order of the House, unless it be for treason, or felony, or for refusing to give security for the peace.—*Per Ord. 18 Aprilis, 1626.*

Die Martis, 20 Januarii, 1673.

L. Upon report made this day, from the Lords committees, appointed to consider of the privileges of the peers of this realm,
and

and orders and customs of the Lords House of Parliament, &c. to whom was referred the examining of what hath been the practice in former times, in cases of Lords desiring leave to appear and answer accusations in the House of Commons; that their Lordships have searched and perused several precedents, and thereupon conceive, that it may deeply intrench into the privileges of this House, for any Lord of the House to answer an accusation in the House of Commons, either in person, or by sending his answer in writing, or by his counsel there: upon serious consideration had whereof, and perusal of the said precedents in this House, it is ordered, That for the future no Lord shall either go down to the House of Commons, or send his answer in writing, or appear by counsel, to answer any accusation there, upon penalty of being committed to the black rod, or to the tower, during the pleasure of this House. And it is further ordered, That this order be added to the roll of standing orders of this House, that the Lords may the better take notice of the same.

Die Mercurii, 25 Novembris, 1696.

LI. Ordered, That no Lord of this House shall go into the House of Commons, whilst the House, or any committee of the whole House is sitting there, without the leave of this House first had. And this to be added to the roll of standing orders.

Die Martis, 14 Januarii, 1689.

LII. Whereas this day was appointed for taking into consideration the report made the tenth day of this instant January, from the Lords committees for privileges, concerning the trials of Peers, after due consideration had thereof; it is resolved by the Lords spiritual and temporal in Parliament assembled, that it is the antient right of the Peers of England, to be tried only in full Parliament for any capital offences. And it is ordered, That this resolution be added to the roll of standing orders of this House.

Die Veneris, 17 Januarii 1689.

LIII. It is declared by the Lords spiritual and temporal in Parliament assembled, That the order made the fourteenth of this instant January, concerning the trial of Peers in Parliament, shall not be understood, or construed to extend to any appeal of murder, or other felony, to be brought against any Peer or Peers. And it is ordered, That this declaration be entered on the roll of standing orders of this House.

Die Veneris, 13 Decembris, 1661.

LIV. Forasmuch as upon writs of error, returnable in this high court of Parliament, the plaintiffs therein often desire to delay justice, rather than come to the determination of the right of the cause; it is therefore ordered, That the plaintiffs, in all such writs, after the same, and the records be brought in, shall speedily repair to the clerk of the Parliaments, and prosecute their writs of error, and satisfy the officers of this House their fees justly due unto them, by reason of the prosecution of the said writs of error, and the proceedings thereupon; and further, shall assign their errors within eight days after the bringing in of such writs, with the records. And if the plaintiff make default so to do, then the said clerk, if the defendant in such writs require it, shall record, That the plaintiff hath not prosecuted his writ of error; and that the House doth therefore award, that such plaintiff shall lose his writ, and that the defendant shall go without day, and that the record be remitted. And if any plaintiff, in any writ of error, shall alledge a diminution, and pray a *certiorari*, the clerk shall enter an award thereof accordingly, and the plaintiff may before in *nullo est erratum* pleaded, sue forth the writ of *certiorari* in ordinary course, without special petition, or motion to this House for the same. And if he shall not prosecute such writ, and procure it to be returned within ten days next after his plea of diminution put into this House, then unless he shall shew some good cause to this House for the enlarging of the time for the return of such writ, he shall lose the benefit of the same. And the defendant, in the writ of error, may proceed, as if no such writ of *certiorari* were awarded.—*Ent. per Ord. 9 Dec. 1670.*

Die Sabbati, 13 Julii, 1678.

LV. Ordered, That all persons who shall be desirous to exhibit to this House, any petitions of appeal from any court of equity, do present their petitions within fourteen days, to be accounted from and after the first day of every session or meeting of Parliament after a recess; after which time the Lords do declare they will, during every such sitting, receive no petition of appeal, unless upon a decree made whilst the Parliament is actually sitting; in which case, the party who shall find himself aggrieved may bring his petition of appeal, provided he present it to this House, within fourteen days after such decree is made and entered in any court of equity in England or Wales, twenty days in any of the courts in Scotland, and forty days in any of the courts of equity in Ireland. And that this order be added to the standing orders of the House of Peers,

Peers, and likewise published in print, to the end that all persons concerned, may take notice thereof, and observe it accordingly.

Die Lunæ, 7 Decembris, 1697.

LVI. Ordered, That for the future, upon giving judgment in any cases of appeals or writs of error in this House, the question shall be put for reversing, and not for affirming. And that this order be added to the roll of standing orders.

Die Jovis, 14 Februarii, 1694.

LVII. Ordered, That no petition, which relates to the rehearing of any cause or part of a cause, formerly heard in this House, shall be read the same day that it is offered, but shall lie upon the table, and a future day be appointed for reading thereof, after twelve of the clock. And this order be added to the roll of standing orders of this House.

Die Jovis, 3 Martii, 1697.

LVIII. Whereas, by the rules and orders of this House, for preventing the bringing of frivolous appeals, all appeals are to be signed by two counsel: it is this day ordered, That no person whatsoever do presume, as counsel, to sign any appeal to be brought into this House, for the future, unless such person hath been of counsel in the same cause, in the courts below, or shall attend, as counsel, at the bar of this House, when the said appeal shall come in to be heard. And it is further ordered, That this order shall be added to the roll of standing orders, and affixed on the doors of this House, and the courts in Westminster Hall.

Die Martis, 19 Aprilis, 1698.

LIX. The House taking notice, that upon appeals and writs of error, there has been of late several scandalous and frivolous printed cases delivered to Lords of this House; for preventing whereof for the future, it is this day ordered, That no person whatsoever do presume to deliver any printed case, or cases, to any Lord of this House, unless such case, or cases, shall be signed by one or more of the counsel who attended at the hearing of the cause in the courts below, or shall be of counsel at the hearing in this House. And this order to be added to the roll of standing orders, and affixed on the doors of this House, and the courts in Westminster Hall.

Die Mercurii, 22 Decembris, 1703.

LX. Upon consideration of the great inconveniences arising, by motions and petitions for putting off causes, after days have been appointed for hearing thereof; it is ordered, That when

a day shall be appointed for the hearing any cause, appeal, or writ of error argued in this House, the same shall not be altered, but upon petition; and that no petition shall in such case be received, unless two days notice thereof be given to the adverse party; of which notice oath shall be made at the bar of this House. And it is further ordered, That this order be added to the roll of standing orders.

Die Veneris, 26 Januarii, 1710.

LXI. Whereas, by order of the twentieth of November, one thousand six hundred and eighty, it is directed, that in all cases, upon appeals to be brought into this House, from the courts in Westminster Hall, the party or parties appellants, shall, before any answer to his or their petition, give security to the clerk of the Parliaments, by recognizance, to be entered into to his Majesty in one hundred pounds, to pay such costs to the defendant or defendants in such appeals, as this court shall appoint, in case the decree or judgment appealed from shall be affirmed by this court. It is this day ordered, That in all cases of appeal to be brought into this House from any court in Westminster Hall, from any court of equity in England or Wales, from any court in Scotland, or from any of the courts of equity in Ireland, the party or parties appellants shall within eight days after such appeal received, give security to the clerk of the Parliaments, by recognizance to be entered into to his Majesty, or the penalty of two hundred pounds, conditioned to pay such costs to the defendant or defendants in such appeals, as this court shall appoint, in case the decree or judgment appealed from shall be affirmed. And if the appellant or appellants shall neglect or refuse to give such security within the time aforesaid, That then the clerk of the Parliaments shall inform the House thereof, and the appeal from thenceforth to be dismissed.—*Ent. per Ord. 27 Januarii, 1710.*

Die Martis, 28 Junii 1715.

LXII. Ordered, That on the days causes are appointed to be heard, the cause to be called in precisely at eleven o'clock, and no other business to intervene.

Die Sabbati, 13 Junii, 1685.

LXIII. Ordered, That for the future, neither his Majesty's attorney general, nor any assistants to this House, shall be allowed to be of counsel at the bar of this House, for any private person or persons whatsoever. And it is further ordered, That this order be added to the roll of standing orders of this House.

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Die Sabbati, 5 Aprilis, 1707.

LXIV. Ordered, That if any Lord, at the hearing of a cause, be not on one of the benches, the Lord Chancellor shall stop proceedings, until such Lord take his place on one of the said benches.—*Ent. per Ord. 28 Junii, 1715.*

How far it is conceived the Privilege of the Nobility doth clearly extend, concerning the Freedom of their Servants and Followers from Arrests.

LXV. To all their menial servants, and those of their family, and also those employed necessarily and properly about their estates, as well as their persons.

This freedom to begin twenty days before the return of the writ of summons, in the beginning of every session of Parliament, and to continue twenty days before and after every session of Parliament, except in such cases wherein other provision hath been made, by an act of Parliament passed in the twelfth and thirteenth year of the reign of his late Majesty King William the Third, intituled An act for preventing any inconveniencies that may happen by privilege of Parliament.

All the Lords are to be very careful in this point, and remember the ground of this privilege, which was only in respect they should not be distracted, by the trouble of their servants, from attending the serious affairs of the kingdom; and that, therefore, they will not pervert that privilege to the public injustice of the kingdom, which was given them only that the whole realm might, in this high court, draw the clearer light of justice from them; in which case every one ought rather to go far within, than any way exceed the due limits.

Before any person be sent for, upon this account, the Lord concerned shall either by himself, or by his letter, or by some message, certify the House, upon his honour, that the person arrested is within the limits of the privilege before expressed.

And for the parties, they must be left to the judgment of the House, as the particular cases shall come in question, wherein the House wants not all means, as well by oath as without, to find out the true nature of the servant's quality in his Lord's service; and thereupon if by the House it be adjudged contrary to the true intent, any member whatsoever must not find it strange, if, in such case, both he himself suffer reproof, as the House shall think fit, and his servant receive no benefit by the privilege, but pay the fees: whereas the justice of the kingdom must be preferred before any personal respect; and none to be spared that shall offend after so fair

fair warning.—*Per Ord.* 28 *Maii*, 1624.—*Emendat.* 22 *Junii*, 1715.

Die Mercurii, 24 Martii, 1696-7.

LXVI. Ordered, That no common attorney or solicitor, though employed by any Peer or Lord of this House, shall be allowed privilege of Parliament. And that this order be entered on the roll of standing orders.

Die Martis, 15 Aprilis, 1712.

LXVII. It is this day ordered, That all written protections given by any Lord of this House shall be, and are hereby vacated and made void: and that for the future no Lord of this House shall give any written protection to any person whatsoever. And this order to be printed and published, and fixed on the doors of this House and Westminster Hall.—*Ent. per Ord.* 7 *Maii*, 1712.

Die Jovis, 23 Novembris, 1693.

LXVIII. It is resolved, and this day ordered, That this House will not receive any petition for protecting their Majesties servants. And that this order be added to the standing orders of this House.

LXIX. Ordered, The goods of privileged persons taken in execution are to be re-delivered and freed, as well as the persons.—*Per Ord.* 8 *Maii*, 1628.

LXX. Ordered, That the nobility of this kingdom, and Lords of the Upper House of Parliament, whether they be plaintiffs or defendants, are of ancient right to answer or be examined in all courts upon protestation of honour only, and not upon the common oath.—*Per Ord.* 6 *Maii*, 1628.

Die Veneris, 30 Aprilis, 1675.

LXXI. Ordered, That no oath shall be imposed by any bill, or otherwise, upon the Peers, with a penalty in case of refusal, to lose their places and votes in Parliament, or liberty of debates therein. And that this order be added to the roll of the standing orders of this House.

Die Mercurii, 3 Julii, 1678.

LXXII. The Lords spiritual and temporal in Parliament assembled do declare, that in all cases wherein it is necessary to examine witnesses *in perpetuam rei memoriam*, it shall not be taken to be a breach of privilege of Parliament to file a bill against a Peer in time of Parliament, and take out usual process

cefs for that purpofe only. And it is ordered, That this declaration be added to the roll of ftanding orders.

Die Lunæ, 14 Decembris, 1696.

LXXIII. Ordered, That the filing of an original, or of any bill in equity, without fervice of any letter or procefs thereupon, within time of privilege of Parliament, againft any Lord of this Houfe, fhall not be taken to be a breach of privilege of Parliament. And that this order be added to the roll of ftanding orders of this Houfe.

Die Jovis, 12 Novembris, 1685.

LXXIV. The Lord Marquis of Halifax reported, that the Lords committees for privileges, to whom it was referred to confider whether privilege of peerage fhall be allowed to any Peer of this Houfe, wherein he is only a trustee, have ordered him to report it as the opinion of that committee, that the privilege of Parliament ought not to be allowed to Peers, in cafes wherein they are only trustees; which opinion the Houfe confirmed, and ordered the fame to be entered as a ftanding order of this Houfe.

Die Sabbati, 29 Aprilis, 1699.

LXXV. Refolved and declared, That no Peer or Lord of this Houfe hath privilege, whereby any ftop or hinderance may, or can be given to the proving the will of any perfon whatfoever. And that this order be added to the roll of ftanding orders of this Houfe.

Die Martis, 21 Februarii, 1692.

LXXVI. Ordered and declared, That privilege of Parliament fhall not be allowed to minor Peers, noblewomen, or widows of Peers (faving their right of peerage.) And it is further ordered, That if the widow of any Peer fhall be married to a Commoner, ſhe fhall not be allowed privilege of peerage. And that this order be added to the roll of ftanding orders.

Die Lunæ, 27 Februarii, 1698.

LXXVII. Refolved, That it is a breach of the privilege of this Houfe for any perfon whatfoever to print, or publish in print, any thing relating to the proceedings of this Houfe, without the leave of this Houfe. And it is ordered, That this refolution be added to the ftanding orders, and fet on the doors of this Houfe.

Die Jovis, 11 Januarii, 1699.

LXXVIII. Ordered, That in case of complaint, by any Lord of this House, of a breach of privilege, whereupon any person shall be taken into custody, for the future, if the House, upon examination of the matter complained of, shall judge the same to be no breach of privilege, the Lord who made the complaint shall pay the fees and expences of the person so taken into custody. And it is further ordered, That no person shall be taken into custody, upon complaint of a breach of privilege, but upon oath made at the bar of this House.

LXXIX. No Lord of this House shall be capable of receiving above two proxies, nor more to be numbered in any cause voted.—*Per Ord. 25 Februarii, 1625.*

All proxies from a spiritual Lord shall be made to a spiritual Lord, and from a temporal Lord to a temporal Lord.—*Per Ord. ibid.*

LXXX. If a Peer having leave of the King to be absent from Parliament, gives his proxy, and afterwards sits again in the House, his coming and sitting again in Parliament doth determine that proxy.—*Per Ord. 25 April. 1626.*

LXXXI. If a Peer having leave to be absent, makes his proxy, and returns, he cannot make a new proxy without new leave.—*Per Ord. ibid.*

Die Martis, 11 Junii, 1689.

LXXXII. The clerk of the Parliaments, in pursuance of the order yesterday, shewed several instances where proxies have been used in preliminaries to private causes: it is ordered, That proxies may be used in such preliminary cases, but not in giving judgment. And that this order be added to the roll of standing orders.

Die Martis, 15 Martii, 1697.

LXXXIII. Ordered, That no proxy, for the future, shall be made use of in any judicial cause in this House, although the proceedings be by way of bill. And that this order be added to the roll of standing orders.

Die Lunæ, 11 Februarii, 1694.

LXXXIV. The House this day taking into consideration, whether a Lord voting in the question, and having a proxy, is obliged to give his vote in respect of such proxy; it is ordered,

dered, that a Lord having a proxy, and voting in the question, such Lord ought to give a vote for that proxy, in case proxies be called for. And it is ordered, That this order be added to the standing orders of this House.

Die Sabbati, 20 Martii, 1696.

LXXXV. Ordered, That no proxy entered in the book after prayers shall be made use of the same day, in any question: and that the clerks give an account thereof to the House.—*Ent. per Ord. 16 Januarii, 1702.*

The Order concerning the Precedency granted to the Earl of Banbury, before divers other Lords of an antienter Creation, which is to be read at the Beginning of every Session, viz.

LXXXVI. The Lords in this Parliament having understood by the Lords committees for the privileges of the House, That they are clearly of opinion the act of Parliament, 31 Hen. VIII. is most strong and plain, for the settling the precedence of the Peers, according to their ancienty and times of creation, have, upon full and deliberate hearing, and examining the said act in every part, in open House, adjudged, and do adjudge and declare the said act of 31 Hen. VIII. to be full and direct in the point, to enjoin every Peer, upon new creation, to have place according to the time of his creation and date of his letters patents, and no otherwise. And every other ancient Peer to hold his place according to his antiquity and creation, and no otherwise, unless it be in case of such persons, and in such places, as the said act doth particularly mention. And whereas his Majesty was pleased to send a gracious message to this House, to let us know, "That it was never his intention to innovate any thing in that kind, or by that particular creation, to coin any power contrary to law or ancient custom, in matter of placing any one before the other; but that his Majesty having resolved to confer that dignity on that noble person, at the same time with the others then advanced, he being the first in quality of them, was consequently to have had the first creation, but being at that time casually forgotten, and his Majesty afterwards remembered of him, he did but assign him that rank which at first was intended, without the least thought of injuring any in the present, or ever to do the like in future. As also, his Majesty desired this might pass for once in this particular, considering how old a man this Lord is, and childless, so that he may enjoy it during his time, with this assurance, that his Majesty will never more occasion the like dispute, but allow degrees to be marshalled according to the statute in that behalf."

The Lords do give his Majesty very humble and hearty thanks for his princely care, to satisfy this House of his clear intentions, and are contented (the Lords particularly interested in the precedency, having first given their consents that the said Earl may hold the same place as he now stands entered, for his life only, and that place of precedency not to go to his heirs, with this proviso, that it shall not in the least degree be brought into example, to prejudice the undoubted right of the Peers, according to the full judgment pronounced, and with this solemn protestation, that as his Majesty hath been pleased to promise, he will never, in future, seek to break the precedency settled according to the antiquity of the creation in any sort, so the Lords will never, upon any occasion hereafter, give way to any precedency, though but for life, or temporary, in any point impugning or contradicting this judgment, grounded upon the aforesaid statute, delivered upon so great and sound deliberation and advice, with a general consent, which they have caused to be entered and enrolled, and shall be read at the beginning of every session, in the open House, amongst the orders.—*Per Ord. 10 die Aprilis, 1628.*

Die Sabbati, 5 Martii, 1641.

LXXXVII. Ordered by the Lords in Parliament, That such Lords as shall make protestation, or enter their dissents, to any votes of this House, as they have a right to do, without asking leave of the House, either with or without their reasons, shall make their said protestation, or give direction to have their dissents entered into the clerk's book, the next sitting day of this House, or else the said protestation or dissent to be void and of none effect.—*Emendat. 22 Junii, 1715.*

Die Lunæ, 27 Julii, 1663.

LXXXVIII. Upon report from the committee for privileges, concerning the introduction of Lords by descent into the House of Peers, it is resolved by the Lords spiritual and temporal in Parliament assembled, That all Peers of this realm, by descent, being of the age of one and twenty years, have right to come and sit in the House of Peers, without any introduction.

Resolved, That no such Peers ought to pay any fee, or fees, to any herald, upon their first coming into the House of Peers.

Resolved, That no such Peers may, or shall be introduced into the House of Peers by any herald, or with any ceremony, though they shall desire the same.

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Resolved, That these votes be entered and affixed to the general roll of orders of the House of Peers, to prevent all questions or claims of this kind for the future.

Die Martis, 28 Junii, 1715.

LXXXIX. Ordered, That every Peer of this realm, claiming by virtue of a special limitation in remainder, and not claiming by descent, shall be introduced.

Die Jovis, 2 Martii, 1664.

XC. Upon report from the Lords committees for privileges, that in pursuance of the first part of the order of the twenty-fourth day of February last, directed to the committee upon the reading of a bill, for restoring Sir Charles Stanley in blood, the first time; whereas the said bill began in the House of Commons, it appearing by the records of Parliament, that all bills for the restitution in blood, ought, before they be admitted and received in Parliament upon humble petition) to have the King's allowance for presenting the said bills; and that then they are to be prosecuted and begun in the House of Peers. Contrary to which privilege there having been errors committed, by reason of beginning some bills of this nature in the Lower House, our late sovereign King James was pleased to take notice thereof, openly giving admonition to both Houses, concerning one act (namely, for restitution of Rowland Merrick in blood) That no such act of restitution from thenceforth should be proceeded withall in Parliament, till the same were first allowed and signed by the King; and that then it ought to begin first in the Higher House, whereof his said Majesty did will an observation and remembrance to be made: notwithstanding which rule, by reason of the interruption of the regular and parliamentary way of proceedings, occasioned by the late tumultuous times, whereby Sir Charles Stanley, and his counsel, have been mistaken in the proper way of bringing in a bill for restitution in blood, in the Parliament: the Lords spiritual and temporal in Parliament assembled do declare, that although they have been pleased to receive the said bill, yet it is with this positive resolution that, for the future, no such act of restitution shall be proceeded withal in Parliament, till the same be first allowed and signed by the King's Majesty; and that then it shall begin first in the House of Peers. And that to this purpose the said resolution of this House, conformable to the orders of the 22d and 27th of May, in 3 Jac. 1606, be entered upon the roll of the standing orders of this House.

Die Jovis, 23 Maii, 1678.

XCI. Ordered, That the Lords sub-committees for privileges and perusal of the Journal book have hereby power given them to examine so much of the Journal book of this House, as was left unexamined at the last propogation; and that, for the future, the said Lords sub-committees are hereby empowered to meet after every session, for examining of so much of the Journal book as shall be left unexamined at the time of the ending of such session, without any further order.—*Ent. per Ord. 9 Nov. 1685.*

Dis Mercurii, 19 Martii, 1678.

XCII. Whereas, by an act passed in the thirteenth year of his now Majesty's reign, intituled An act for the more effectual preserving the King's person and government, by disabling Papists from sitting in either House of Parliament, all and every the Peers of this realm are to take the oaths of allegiance and supremacy, and make and subscribe the declaration in the said act contained, in such manner as therein is directed: now, for preventing interruption of debates, by the late coming in of Lords to take the said oaths and make and subscribe the said declaration, it is ordered, That such Peers as have not taken the said oaths and subscribed the said declaration, and come to the House with an intent to do the same, are to be present, for that purpose, at the first sitting of the House. And it is further ordered, That this order be added to the roll of the standing orders of this House.

Die Veneris, 22 Maii, 1685.

XCIII. Ordered, That no Lord under the age of one and twenty years shall be permitted to sit in this House. And it is further ordered, That this order be added to the standing orders of this House.

Die Mercurii, 20 Aprilis, 1698.

XCIV. Ordered, That for the future it be a general instruction to all committees, who shall meet upon private bills, that they take no notice of the consent of any person to the passing of such bill, unless such person appear before them, or that there be an affidavit of two persons made that he or she is not able to attend, and doth consent to the said bill: and that when any committee shall be appointed on a private bill, notice thereof be affixed on the doors of this House fourteen days before the meeting of the said committee. And that this order be added to the roll of standing orders.

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Die Jovis, 7 Decembris, 1699.

XCV. Ordered, That for the future no private bill shall be brought into this House until the House be informed of the matters therein contained, by petition to this House for leave to bring in such bill. And that this order be added to the roll of standing orders.

Die Veneris, 16 Novembris, 1705.

XCVI. Ordered, That for the future no private bill shall be read in this House until printed copies thereof be left with the clerk of the Parliaments, for the perusal of the Lords. And that one of the said copies shall be delivered to every person as shall be concerned in the said bill, before the meeting of the committee upon such bill: and in case of infancy, to be delivered to the guardian or next relation of full age, not concerned in interest, or in the passing the said bill. And that this order be added to the roll of standing orders, and printed and published, to the end all persons concerned may take notice thereof.

Die Luna, 14 Januarii, 1705.

XCVII. Ordered and declared, That for the future, when any cause shall be appointed to be heard in this House, no private bill whatsoever shall be read that day before the hearing of the cause.—*Ent. per Ord. 18 Jan. 1705.*

Die Sabbati, 16 Februarii, 1705.

XCVIII. Ordered, That, for the future, all parties concerned in the consequences of any private bill, shall sign the petition that desires leave to bring such private bill into this House.

XCIX. Ordered, That when a petition for a private bill shall be offered to this House, it shall be referred to two of the Judges, who are forthwith to summon all parties before them who may be concerned in the bill; and after hearing all the parties, and perusing the bill, are to report to the House the state of the case, and their opinion thereupon, under their hands, and are to sign the said bill. The same method to be observed as to private bills that are brought up from the House of Commons, before the second reading of such bills, by sending a copy of the said bill, signed by the clerk, to the Judges.

C. Ordered, That where a bill is brought in to empower any person to sell or dispose of lands in one place, and buy or settle lands in another, the committee to whom such bill shall

be referred, do take care that the values be fully made out, and that there be an agreement for the purchase; and also to take care in the bill that the purchase be effectually made and settled, as desired in such bill.—*Emendat. per Ord. 13 Martii, 1729.*

CI. Ordered, That in all cases where trustees shall be appointed by any private bill, the committee to whom that bill is referred do take care that the trustees appear personally before them, and accept the trust under their hands. And also, that the Lord who shall be in the chair of a committee for the passing of any private bill, when he makes his report, shall acquaint the House that all the orders of the House, in relation to private bills, were duly observed in the passing the said bill through the committee.

CII. Ordered, That for the future, when any private bill shall be sent by the House of Commons, there shall be at the same time transmitted to them a copy of these orders now made, and of all other standing orders of the House then in force, relating to the passing of private bills.—*Ent. per Ord. 19 Feb. 1705.*

Die Mercurii, 18 Decembris, 1706.

CIII. The House being informed that, upon the reference of petitions for private bills to the Judges, pursuant to the standing orders of this House, there arises some difficulty as to the examination upon oath of the persons who are produced before them, to prove the fact, as to the merits of such bills; it is ordered, That upon the reference of any private bill to the Judges as aforesaid, the Judges to whom the said bill shall be referred shall send to this House a list or lists of such persons names as are to be sworn, in relation to such bill; and that they shall be thereupon sworn at the bar of this House, in order to be examined by the Judges upon such oath, in relation to the bill before them.—*Ent. per Ord. 20 Dec. 1706.*

Die Veneris, 28 Aprilis, 1699.

CIV. Ordered, That for the future no motion shall be granted for making any order of this House a standing order, or for dispensing with a standing order of this House the same day it is made, nor before the House shall be summoned to consider of the said motion. And this to be added to the roll of standing orders.

Die Veneris, 21 Februarii, 1717.

CV. Ordered, That in all cases upon writs of error, depending in this House, when diminution shall be at any time

time alledged, and a *certiorari* prayed and awarded before *in nullo est erratum* pleaded, the clerk of the Parliaments shall, upon request to him made, give a certificate that diminution is so alledged, and a *certiorari* prayed and awarded thereupon. And it is further ordered, that this order be entered on the roll of the standing orders of this House.

Die Veneris, 15 Januarii 1719.

CVI. Ordered, That when, upon an appeal to this House, an order is made for the respondent to answer thereunto by a time limited, and no answer is put in by that time, upon proof made of due service of such order, a peremptory day shall be appointed for putting in the answer, without any further notice to be given to the respondent.—*Ent. per Ord. 19 Jan. 1719.*

D'e Martis, 29 Martii, 1720.

CVII. Ordered, That such appeals as have been presented during this session, to which answers have been, or shall be put in during this session, and for hearing whereof no day hath been or shall be appointed in this session, and all such appeals as shall be presented in any subsequent session, to which answers shall be put in during the same session, and for hearing whereof the day shall be appointed; if neither the appellant or respondent shall apply to this House, within eight days, to be accounted from and after the first day of the next session, or meeting of Parliament, for a day for hearing such appeals, shall stand dismissed, but without prejudice to the appellants presenting any new appeals thereafter, as they shall be advised.

CVIII. Ordered, That such appeals as have been presented during this session, to which no answers have been or shall be put in during this session, and all such appeals as shall be presented in any subsequent session, to which no answers shall be put in during the same session; if neither the appellant within eight days, to be accounted from and after the first day of the next session, or meeting of Parliament, shall apply to this House to appoint a peremptory day to answer, nor the respondent put in an answer within the said eight days, such appeals shall stand dismissed, but without prejudice to the appellants presenting any new appeals thereafter, as they shall be advised.

CIX. Ordered, That when any answer to an appeal shall be put in for the future, the clerk to whom it shall be delivered do immediately indorse thereon the day on which such answer

is brought in, and that the names of the parties answering, and to whose appeals such answers are put in, be the same day entered in the Journal of this House.—*Ent. per Ord. 5 Aprilis, 1720.*

Die Veneris, 3 Junii, 1720.

CX. The House (according to order) proceeded to take into consideration the standing orders of the 11th of January, 1699, which requires oath of a breach of privilege to be made at the bar of this House, in order to the taking any person into custody; and the same being read, this explanation of, and addition to the said order was made, viz. "That the same is to be understood only of breaches of privilege committed in Great Britain; but that oath made by affidavit in writing, of a breach of privilege committed in Ireland, may be sufficient ground to take into custody the person thereby proved to have been guilty of such breach of privilege, though no oath be made thereof at the bar of this House."

Ordered, That the said explanation and addition be entered on the roll of standing orders.

Die Lunæ, 19 Decembris, 1720.

CXI. Upon report from the Lords committees, appointed to consider of the great disorders that have been in this House, especially when his Majesty is present, and of proper methods to prevent the same for the future, it is ordered, That when his Majesty shall come publicly to this House, all the Lords shall be in their robes, and sit in their due places.

That at all such solemn times, before his Majesty comes, all the doors of this House, and those leading thereunto, particularly to the Prince's chamber, shall be kept shut, and no person whatsoever (except the Lords and assistants of this House, the eldest sons of Peers, who have a right to sit and vote in this House, and the officers and attendants thereto belonging) shall be suffered to come within the doors thereof, other than the master of the ceremonies, and such as he shall certify the Lord Great Chamberlain to be foreign ministers, or other foreigners of distinction; nor shall any ladies or men be permitted to come into the House at any of the doors, unless some Lord doth move the House for such by name; and on the first day of a session none but such as shall apply by name to the Lord Great Chamberlain, or his deputy, and be admitted by his Lordship's directions; and that no person whatsoever do presume to stand upon the throne, or steps thereof, but such as carry his Majesty's train, who shall stand behind the chair of state, and those that bear the regalia upon the second step of the throne.

That

That on such days as his Majesty shall come publicly to this House, the painted chamber, and lobby, leading from it to the House, shall, by the care of the gentleman usher of the black rod, the yeoman usher, and door keepers, be kept clear from footmen and all other persons (except such gentlemen and servants as attend the Lords with their robes) and that no person be covered when any Lord is there: and also that the knight marshal's men appointed to attend this House, do take care to keep the stairs and avenues leading thereunto free from disturbance by footmen or any other persons: and further, that the Lord Great Chamberlain, his deputy, be desired to take care and give charge to the said gentleman usher, yeoman usher, and door keepers, as also to the said knight marshal's men respectively, to see this order duly observed; and that it be printed and published, and affixed on the doors belonging to this House and Westminster Hall, to the end all persons may the better take notice of the same.—*Ent. per Ord. 22 Dec. 1720*, with this addition, *viz.* “That it be affixed on the doors belonging to this House and Westminster Hall, the first day of every session of Parliament.”

Die Mercurii, 25 Januarii, 1720.

CXII. Ordered, That when an order of the day is appointed to be read, for taking any public business into consideration, the Lord on the woolfack do stop the reading of the order till the House shall be cleared of all persons that have no right to be in the House, when sitting, if any such shall be there at that time.—*Ent. per Ord. 26 Jan. 1720.*

Die Mercurii, 31 Januarii, 1721.

CXIII. Notice being taken, that the works, lives, and last wills of divers Lords of this House have been frequently printed imperfectly, and published after their deaths, without the direction or consent of the heirs, executors, administrators, or trustees of such Lords; it is, therefore, resolved and declared, by the Lords spiritual and temporal in Parliament assembled, That if after the death of any Lord of this House, any person presume to publish in print his works, or any part of them not published in his life-time, or his life, or last will, without consent of his heirs, executors, administrators, or trustees, the same is a breach of privilege of this House.

Ordered, That the said resolution and declaration be entered on the roll of the standing orders of this House, and printed and published, and affixed on the doors of this House, to the end all persons that may be therein concerned may the better take notice of the same.

Die Martis, 27 Februarii, 1721.

CXIV. Ordered, That such Lords as shall make protestation or enter their dissents, to any votes of this House, as they have a right to do without asking leave of the House, either with or without their reasons, shall cause their protestation, or dissents, to be entered in the clerk's book, the next sitting day of this House, before the hour of two o'clock, otherwise the same shall not be entered, and shall sign the same before the rising of the House the same day.—*Ent. per Ord. 3 Martii, 1721.*

Die Veneris, 6 Februarii, 1723.

CXV. Ordered, That the clerks and inferior officers attending this House shall not be at any time suspended, or displaced from their offices or employments, without leave of the House.—*Ent. per Ord. 10 Feb. 1723.*

Die Martis, 25 Februarii, 1723.

CXVI. The order of the day being read for taking into consideration the several lists of certificates of written protections delivered yesterday at the bar, by the secretaries of the two compters in London, the order of the Middlesex, and the high bailiff of Westminster, which are entered in their respective offices: and the said officers attending were called in, and the standing order of this House of the 15th of April, 1712, in relation to written protections, being read, they were severally examined as to their knowledge of the said order, as also touching the manner or method of their entering written protections, and they were directed to withdraw, and the following order and declaration was made.

Ordered and declared, That all the said written protections are null and void, and all other protections, which shall be at any time hereafter given, contrary to the said standing order, shall be taken to be null and void, and that no sheriff, under sheriff, deputy sheriff, coroner, or other officer, whose duty it is to issue any legal process, or to execute the same, or cause the same to be executed, shall receive or allow, or have any regard to make any entry in his office, which is or shall be signed, or pretended to be signed by any Lord of this House: but that nothing herein contained shall be understood in any sort to derogate from the ancient privilege of the Lords of Parliament, with respect to their menial servants, and those of their family, as also those employed necessarily and properly about their estates, as well as their persons, or to expose to arrests those who are really servants to them, as aforesaid.—*Ent. per Ord. 29 Feb. 1723.*

Die

Die Veneris, 18 Decembris, 1724.

CXVII. Ordered by the Lords spiritual and temporal in Parliament assembled, That in all causes on appeals, or writs of error, appointed to be heard in this House, the appellants and respondents, the plaintiffs and defendants, or their respective agents, or solicitors, do, for the future, deliver to the clerk of the Parliaments, or clerk assistant, to be distributed to the Lords of this House, the printed cases upon such appeals or writs of error, at least two days before the hearing of the same; and that no other or different cases in any such causes, be at any time afterwards printed or delivered. And it is further ordered, that this order be forthwith printed and affixed on the doors of this House and Westminster Hall, to the end all persons therein concerned may the better take notice of the same.—*Ent. per Ord. 12 Jan. 1724.*

Die Jovis, 24 Martii, 1725.

CXVIII. Ordered, That no petition of appeal from any decree or sentence of any court of equity in England or Ireland, or of any court in Scotland, before this time, signed and enrolled or extracted, shall be received by this House after five years, to be accounted from the expiration of this present session of Parliament, and the end of the next session ensuing the said five years: nor shall any petition of appeal, from any decree or sentence of any of the said courts, to be hereafter signed and enrolled or extracted, be received by this House, after five years from the signing and enrolling or extracting of such decree or sentence, and the end of fourteen days to be accounted from and after the first day of the session or meeting of Parliament, next ensuing the said five years, unless the person entitled to such appeal be within the age of one and twenty years, or covert, *non compos mentis*, imprisoned, or out of Great Britain or Ireland: in which case, such person shall, and may be at liberty to bring his appeal for reversing any such decree or sentence at any time within five years next after his full age, discovery, coming of sound mind, enlargement out of prison, or coming into Great Britain or Ireland, and fourteen days to be accounted from and after the first day of the session or meeting of Parliament next ensuing the said five years, but not afterwards, or otherwise.

Die Sabbati, 2 Martii, 1727.

CXIX. Upon report from the committee of the whole House, appointed to take into consideration matters relating to the proceedings on appeals and writs of error, it is ordered, That at the hearing of causes for the future, one of the

the counsel for the appellants, shall open the cause, then the evidence on their side shall be read; which done, the other counsel for the appellants may make observations on the evidence, then one of the counsel for the respondents shall be heard, and the evidence on their side to be read; after which the other counsel for the respondents shall be heard, and one counsel only for the appellants to reply.—*Ent. per Ord. 4 Martii, 1727.*

Die Mercurii, 17 Martii, 1730.

CXX. Ordered, That no declaration made by any Lord of this House of a waiver of his privilege, shall be construed to be a waiver of privilege, unless it be in writing signed by himself, or unless such declaration be made in person openly in this House.—*Ent. per Ord. 22 Martii, 1730.*

Die Veneris, 25 Februarii, 1731.

CXXI. Ordered, That all the Lords who shall come to any committee of privileges, shall be of that committee.—*Ent. per Ord. 29 Feb. 1731.*

Die Veneris, 5 Aprilis, 1734.

CXXII. Upon report from the Lords committees appointed to consider the standing orders of this House, in relation to the hearing of appeals; it is ordered, That all such appeals as have been presented, for hearing whereof days shall be appointed during this session, which shall not be determined in this session, and all such appeals as shall be presented, for hearing whereof days shall be appointed in any subsequent session, shall not be determined in the same session, shall be heard and determined in the beginning of the next session of Parliament, in the same order and course as they shall stand to be heard at the end of this, or any other session, without any new application to this House, to appoint a day for hearing the same; and that such of the said appeals as shall stand first, to be heard at the end of this or any other session, shall stand to be heard upon the first Monday after the first day of the next session or meeting of Parliament, the second upon the Wednesday, the third upon the Friday following, and from thence the rest in course, upon every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, until they shall be all heard and determined. And it is further ordered, That this order be, and is hereby declared to be a standing order of this House, and entered on the roll; and that it be printed and published, and affixed on the doors of this House and Westminster Hall,

Hall, to the end all persons that shall be therein concerned may the better take notice of the same.

Die Veneris, 28. Martii, 1735.

CXXIII. Upon report from the Lords committees appointed to consider of the standing orders of this House, in relation to the putting in of answers to appeals; it is ordered and declared, That when, upon an appeal to this House, an order hath been or shall be made for the respondent or respondents to answer thereto by a time limited; if the session of Parliament, wherein such order hath been, or shall be made, shall determine before the time so limited for answering shall be expired, and no answer shall be put in during the same session, service of such order upon the respondent or respondents to such appeal, by the space of five weeks at least before the first day of the then next session, shall be deemed good service; and the appellant may apply to this House for a peremptory day for putting in the answer in case the respondent or respondents shall not put in his or their answer within three days, to be computed from the first day of the next session of Parliament: and it is further ordered, That this order and declaration be entered on the roll of standing orders, and printed and published, and affixed on the doors of this House and Westminster Hall.

Die Jovis, 8 Junii, 1749.

CXXIV. Upon report from the Lords committees appointed to consider of the standing orders of this House of the 5th of April, 1734, in relation to the hearing of appeals left undetermined in a former session, and what alterations or amendments are proper to be made therein, in order to render the same more effectual; it is ordered by the Lords spiritual and temporal in Parliament assembled, That all such appeals as have been presented for hearing, whereof days have been appointed during this session which shall not be determined in this session: and all such appeals as shall be presented for hearing whereof days shall be appointed in any subsequent session which shall not be determined in the same session, shall be heard and determined in the beginning of next session of Parliament, in the same order and course as they stand to be heard at the end of this or any future session, without any new application to this House to appoint a day for hearing the same: and that such of the said appeals as shall stand first to be heard at the end of this or any future session of Parliament shall stand to be heard upon the Wednesday in the week next after that week in which any subsequent session of Parliament shall begin;

gin; the second upon the Friday following, and the third upon the Monday following, and from thence the rest of the said appeals in course upon every Wednesday, Friday, and Monday, until they shall be all heard and determined; and that in the case any such appeal shall not be adjourned by order of this House, made before the day on which the same is hereby appointed to be heard, and the party or parties on one side shall attend by their counsel, and the party or parties on the other side shall not attend by their counsel on the said day appointed for hearing thereof; such appeal shall be heard *ex parte*; and in case neither of the said parties to such appeal shall attend by their counsel on the said day appointed for hearing thereof, then the said appeal shall stand absolutely dismissed; but without prejudice in this last case to the appellant or appellants, presenting any new appeal thereafter in such manner as the said appellant or appellants might have done in case such former appeal had not been presented to this House, as he or they shall be advised.

Ordered, That the standing order aforementioned be vacated and made void: and that this order be substituted instead thereof, and declared to be a standing order; and that it be entered on the roll of standing orders, and printed and published, and affixed on the doors of this House and Westminster Hall.

Die Mercurii, 8 Junii, 1757.

CXXV. Ordered and declared by the Lords spiritual and temporal in Parliament assembled, That no Peer or Lord of Parliament hath privilege of peerage or of Parliament against being compelled by process of the courts in Westminster Hall to pay obedience to a writ of *habeas corpus* directed to him: and it is further ordered, That this order and declaration be entered upon the roll of the standing orders of this House.

Die Mercurii, 19 Maii, 1762.

CXXVI. Upon the report made from the Lords committees appointed to take into consideration the roll of standing orders of this House, in relation to the standing order of the 16th of February, 1703, No. 100, it is ordered, That where a bill is brought in to empower any person to sell or dispose of lands in one place, and to buy or settle lands in another place, the committee to whom such bill shall be referred do take care that the values be fully made out; and if the bill shall not be for making a new purchase, but only for settling other lands in lieu of those to be sold, in that case, provision shall be made in the bill, that such other lands be settled accordingly: but if the bill shall be to purchase and settle

the other lands, in that case, the committee are to take care that there be a binding agreement produced for such new purchase, or if it shall be made to appear to the committee that such agreement cannot then be made, or that such purchase cannot then be made and settled as desired by the bill, and the committee shall then be satisfied with the reasons alleged for either of those purposes; in either of those cases, provision shall be made in the bill that so much of the money arising by sale of the lands directed to be sold as is to be laid out in a new purchase, shall be paid by the purchaser or purchasers into the Bank of England, in the name and with the privity of the accomptant general of the high court of chancery, to be placed to his account there, *ex parte* the purchaser or purchasers of the estate of the person or persons mentioned in the title of the said bill, pursuant to the method prescribed by the act of the 12th year of King George I. chap. 32, and the general orders of the said court, and without fee or reward, according to the act of the 12th year of King George II. chap. 24. and shall, when so paid in, be laid out in the purchase of navy or victualling bills. And it is further ordered, That the interest arising from the money so laid out in the said navy or victualling bills, or exchequer bills, and the money received for the same, as they shall be respectively paid off by government, shall be laid out in the name of the said accomptant general in the purchase of other navy or victualling bills or exchequer bills: all which said navy and victualling bills and exchequer bills shall be deposited in the Bank in the name of the said accomptant general, and shall there remain until a proper purchase or purchases be found and approved, as shall be directed by such bill, and until the same shall upon a petition, setting forth such approbation, to be preferred to the court of chancery in a summary way, by the persons to be named in the bill, be ordered to be sold by the said accomptant general, for the completing such purchase in such manner as the said court shall think just and direct. And it is further ordered, That if the money arising by the sale of such navy, victualling, or exchequer bills, shall exceed the amount of the original purchase money so laid out as aforesaid, then, and in that case only, the surplus which shall remain, after discharging the expence of the applications to the court, shall be paid to such person or persons respectively as would have been entitled to receive the rents and profits of the lands directed to be purchased in case the same had been purchased pursuant to the act, or to the representations of such person or persons.—*Emendat. per Ord. 18 Junii, 1795.*

Ordered, That the standing order before-mentioned be vacated and made void; and that this order be substituted instead thereof, and declared to be a standing order; and that it be entered on the roll of standing orders, and printed and published, to the end that all persons concerned may take notice thereof.

Die Martis, 8 Martii, 1763.

CXXVII. Ordered, by the Lords spiritual and temporal in Parliament assembled, That for the future, if the respondent or respondents to any appeal depending in this House shall be desirous to exhibit a cross appeal, they shall present the same within one week after the answer put into the original appeal, otherwise the same shall not be received.—*Ent. per Ord. 10 Martii, 1763.*

Die Veneris, 20 Martii, 1767.

CXXVIII. Ordered by the Lords spiritual and temporal in Parliament assembled, That this House, or any committee thereof, do not proceed to the hearing upon any claim to a title of honour until fourteen days after printed cases shall have been delivered, which shall contain an abstract of the proofs and authorities upon which such claim may be founded, together with the dates thereof, and references where the same may be found.—*Ent. per Ord. 24 Martii, 1767.*

Die Luna, 11 Maii, 1767.

CXXIX. Upon report from the Lords committees appointed to consider of the most proper means effectually to ascertain the descents of the Peers of this kingdom, so that the crown or this House may not incur the risque of being imposed upon by any ill-founded claim of peerage.

It is ordered by the Lords spiritual and temporal in Parliament assembled, That the King's heralds and pursuivants of arms do take exact accounts, and do preserve regular entries in their books of office of the Peers and Peeresses of this part of the kingdom and descendants from them, so far as it may be in their power to procure authentic information thereof.

Ordered by the Lords spiritual and temporal in Parliament assembled, That Garter King of Arms do officially attend this House upon the day and at the time of the first admission of every Peer, whether by creation or descent; and that he do then and there deliver in at the table a pedigree of the family of such Peer, fairly described on vellum, which pedigree shall include the father and mother, the brother and sisters, their issue, the wife or wives of such Peer, the children

dren of such Peer, their issue, according to seniority, down to the day on which such pedigree shall be so delivered in, together with the marriages, births, baptisms, deaths, and burials, names, surnames, ages, titles, qualities, offices, and employments, (if any) places of abode, and description of every person inserted in such pedigree, so far as the said Garter and the officers of the college of arms may have been able to obtain the knowledge thereof. And in case where such Peer shall not succeed in the honour to his father or mother, but to his grandfather, grandmother, uncle, or aunt, being the not immediate preceding Peer or Peerefs after whom he shall take such honour, then such pedigree shall also further include such grandfather or grandmother, uncle and aunt, together with their descendants, in like form and manner, and down to the same period as aforesaid. And such pedigree so delivered in shall be then referred to the committee of privileges, who shall examine and report the same as it shall appear to them verified with the proofs; which report being agreed to by the House, such pedigree (signed and certified by every such Peer to be true to the best of his knowledge, information, and belief, upon his honour) shall be filed by the clerk, and kept (together with the proofs) amongst the records of the House, and an authentic copy thereof registered in the office of arms: provided, nevertheless, that nothing herein contained shall be construed to bar the claim or prejudice the rights of any person who may be found at any time aggrieved by any omission of entry, or by any defect or error which may be proved by legal evidence to have happened in the construction of such pedigree.

Ordered by the Lords spiritual and temporal in Parliament assembled, That every Peer and every Peerefs in her own right be at liberty to make proof of his or her pedigree before the committee of privileges, and obtain the like entry thereof.

Ordered by the Lords spiritual and temporal in Parliament assembled, That the heralds may demand, as a reasonable fee, the sum of twenty pounds, for their care, expences, trouble, and attendance, in collecting, preparing, delivering in, and assisting at the proof of the pedigree of each Peer and Peerefs, and registering the same, pursuant to the foregoing resolutions, to be paid by every Peer upon his first admission, or by any other Peer or Peerefs who shall desire to make proof of his or her pedigree in like manner.

Ordered, That these orders be printed and published, and affixed on the doors of this House and Westminster Hall, to the end all persons that shall be therein concerned may the better take notice of the same.

Die Veneris, 18 Aprilis, 1788.

CXXX. Upon consideration of the report from the Lords committees for privileges, to whom it was referred to consider of the rules and orders of this House for preserving order therein, it is ordered, That for the future no person shall be in any part of the House during the sitting of the House, except Lords of Parliament and Peers of Great Britain and heirs apparent of such Peers or of Peeresses of Great Britain, in their own right, and such other persons as attend this House as assistants; and that this be added to the roll of standing orders of this House.

Die Mercurii, 16 Maii, 1792.

CXXXI. Ordered by the Lords spiritual and temporal in Parliament assembled, That for the future where a petition for a private bill concerning estates in land or heritable subjects, situate in that part of Great Britain called Scotland, shall be offered to this House, it shall be referred to the Lord President of the court of session in Scotland, the Lord Justice Clerk, and the Chief Baron of the court of exchequer in Scotland, or any two of them, who are forthwith to summon all parties before them who may be concerned in the bill, and after hearing all the parties, and perusing the bill, are to report to the House the state of the case, and their opinion thereupon, under their hands, and are to sign the said bill. The same method is to be observed as to private bills, concerning estates in land or heritable subjects situated in that part of Great Britain called Scotland, brought from the House of Commons, before the second reading of such bill, by sending a copy of the said bill, signed by the clerk, to the Chief Judges aforesaid, or any two of them.

Ordered, That for the future, heirs of entail concerned in the consequences of such private bills as aforesaid, and who reside in that part of Great Britain called Scotland, may give their consent to the passing of such bills before the Lord President of the court of session in Scotland, the Lord Justice Clerk, and the Chief Baron of the court of Exchequer in Scotland, or any two of them; and the certificate of the said Judges, or of any two of them; by which it shall appear that on a day and at a place to be therein expressed, such person or persons did appear personally before them, and being aware of the interest they may have in such bill, did give his, her, or their consent for him or themselves, and for those for whom, according to the law of Scotland, he, she, or they, may be entitled to consent, and did in their presence sign a bill (which bill, together with the said certificate, must be produced) shall be held

held as sufficient evidence of the consent of such person or persons before any committee of this House to whom the consideration of such bill may be referred.

Ordered, That it be a general instruction to the Judges who shall meet to take the consent of heirs of entail concerned in the consequences of private bills, relating to estates in that part of Great Britain called Scotland, that they take no notice of the consent of any person to the passing of such bill, unless such person appear before them, or that it be made manifest to them by an instrument under the hand of a notary public, duly executed according to the forms required by the law of Scotland, that he or she is not able to attend, and doth consent to the said bill.

Ordered, That the said orders be made standing orders, and that they be entered on the roll of standing orders, and printed and published, to the end that all persons concerned may the better take notice of the same.

Die Luna, 11 Martii, 1793.

CXXXII. Ordered by the Lords spiritual and temporal in Parliament assembled, That no bill for making any cut, or canal, for the purposes of navigation, or any cut, canal, or aqueduct, for the purpose of supplying any city, town, or place, with water, or for varying or altering any such cut, canal, or aqueduct, already made, or for making or improving the navigation of any river, or for altering any act of Parliament passed for any or either of those purposes, shall be read a third time in this House, unless notice shall have been inserted three times in the London Gazette, in the months of August and September, or either of them, previous to the session of Parliament in which such bill shall be brought into Parliament, that an application was intended to be made to Parliament to obtain such bill: and unless such notice shall also have been inserted in some one newspaper of every county through which any such cut, canal, or aqueduct, is intended to be carried, or in which such cut, canal, or aqueduct, already made, is intended to be varied or altered, or in which such river, or such part thereof, as is intended to be made navigable, or the navigation thereof to be improved, is situated (or if there be not any newspaper printed in such counties respectively, then in the newspaper of some county near or adjoining thereto) three times at the least, in the months of August and September, or either of them, immediately preceding the session of Parliament in which such application is intended to be made: and unless such notice shall also have been given at the general quarter session of the peace which shall have been

holden for every and each county, riding, or division, through which any such cut, canal, or aqueduct, is intended to be carried; or in which such cut, canal, or aqueduct, already made, is intended to be varied or altered; or in which such river, or such part thereof as is intended to be made navigable, or the navigation thereof to be improved, is situated, at Michaelmas preceding the session of Parliament in which such application is intended to be made, by affixing such notice on the door of the session house of each and every such county where such general quarter session shall be holden.

Ordered, That such several notices shall contain the names of the parishes and townships, (and of no other) into or through which any such cut, canal, or aqueduct, is intended to be carried, varied, or altered, or in which such river, or such part thereof as is intended to be made navigable, or the navigation thereof to be improved, is situated.

Ordered, That no bill for all or any of the purposes aforesaid shall be read a third time in this House, unless, previously to such bill being brought to this House from the Commons, a map, or plan of such intended cut, or canal, aqueduct, or navigation, or of any intended alteration in any cut, canal, aqueduct, or navigation, already made (as the case may be) shall have been deposited with the clerk of the Parliaments, in which map or plan shall be described the line of such intended cut, canal, aqueduct, or navigation, or of such intended alteration, and the lands through which the same is intended to be carried; together with a book of reference, containing a list of the names of the owners, or reputed owners, and also of the occupiers of such lands respectively; and that there be also annexed to the said map, or plan, an estimate of the expence of such undertaking (in cases where provision is intended to be made for raising money to defray such expence) such estimate to be signed by the person or persons making the same; and if such money is proposed to be raised by subscription, that there be also annexed to the said map, or plan, an account of the money subscribed for that purpose, and the names of the subscribers, with the sums by them subscribed respectively.

Ordered, That no bill for all or any of the purposes aforesaid shall be read a third time in this House, unless previously to such bill being brought to this House from the Commons, application shall have been made to the owners or reputed owners, and also to the occupiers of the lands through which any such cut, canal, aqueduct, or navigation, is intended to be carried, or any such alteration is intended to be made, for the consent of such persons respectively; and unless such map,
or

or plan, as aforesaid, or a duplicate thereof, shall, at the time of such application, have been shewn to them respectively; and unless separate lists shall have been made of the names of such owners and occupiers, distinguishing which of them, upon such application, have assented to, or dissented from, such intended cut, canal, aqueduct, or navigation, or such alteration, or are neuter in respect thereof; and unless such lists shall be deposited with the clerk of the Parliaments at the same time as the map, or plan, and book of reference mentioned in the preceding order.

Ordered, That in case any bill for all or any of the purposes aforesaid shall contain a clause to empower the person or persons who shall make such cut, canal, aqueduct, or navigation, as aforesaid, or any part thereof, to vary or deviate from the line particularly described in the map or plan deposited as aforesaid, with the clerk of the Parliaments, such bill shall not be read a third time in this House, unless a like application shall have been made to the owners, or reputed owners, and occupiers of the lands through which such cut, canal, aqueduct, or navigation, might pass by virtue of the power so given to alter or vary the line thereof; and unless a like list as aforesaid of such owners, or reputed owners, and occupiers, be deposited at the time and in the manner aforesaid with the clerk of the Parliaments, as if it had been originally proposed to carry such cut, canal, aqueduct, or navigation, through the lands of such persons respectively.

Ordered, That for the future, when any bill, for all or any of the purposes aforesaid, shall be sent by this House to a committee; there shall be at the same time transmitted to such committee a copy of the aforesaid orders now made, and of all other standing orders of the House then in force, relating to the passing of such bills: and such committee shall examine in the first place, whether the orders aforesaid have, or have not, been complied with, and shall report the same to the House.

Ordered, That the said orders be declared standing orders, and that they be entered upon the roll of standing orders of this House, and printed and published, to the end all persons concerned may the better take notice of the same.—*Ent. per Ord. March 14, 1793.*

Die Mercurii, 19 Junii, 1795.

CXXXIII. Upon report from the Lords Committees appointed to consider of the roll of standing orders of this House, it is ordered by the Lords spiritual and temporal in Parliament assembled, That previous to the second reading in this House

of any bill for making any navigation, aqueduct, cut, or canal, or for improving the same, the map or plan of the said navigation, aqueduct, cut, or canal, which is directed to be lodged in the Parliament office, by the standing order No. 132, shall be engraved or printed upon a scale of half an inch, at least, to a mile, and annexed to the printed copies of the bill, and shall be laid upon the table of this House.

Ordered, That the said order be declared a standing order, and that it be entered on the roll of standing orders of this House, and printed and published, to the end all persons concerned may the better take notice of the same.—*Ent. per ord.*
19 Junii, 1795.



STANDING ORDERS relating to the bringing in, and proceeding on, Private Bills, in the House of Peers.

Die Mercurii, 20 Aprilis, 1698.

IT is ordered by the Lords spiritual and temporal in Parliament assembled, That for the future it be a general instruction to all committees, who shall meet upon private bills, that they take no notice of the consent of any person to the passing of such bill, unless such person appear before them, or that there be an affidavit of two persons made, that he or she is not able to attend, and doth consent to the said bill: and that when any committee shall be appointed on a private bill, notice thereof be affixed on the doors of this House fourteen days before the meeting of the said committee. And that this order be added to the roll of standing orders.

Die Jovis, 7 Decembris, 1699.

It is ordered by the Lords spiritual and temporal in Parliament assembled, That for the future no private bill shall be brought into this House until the House be informed of the matters therein contained, by petition to this House for leave to bring in such bill. And that this order be added to the roll of standing orders.

Die Veneris, 16 Novembris, 1705.

It is ordered by the Lords spiritual and temporal in Parliament assembled, That for the future no private bill shall be read in this House a second time, until printed copies thereof be left with: the clerk of the Parliaments, for the perusal of the Lords. And that one of the said copies shall be delivered to every person as shall be concerned in the said bill, before the
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the meeting of the committee upon such bill: and in case of infancy, to be delivered to the guardian, or next relation of full age, not concerned in interest, or in the passing the said bill. And that this order be added to the roll of standing orders, and printed and published, to the end all persons concerned may take notice thereof.

Die Luna, 14 Januarii, 1705.

It is this day ordered and declared by the Lords spiritual and temporal in Parliament assembled, That for the future, when any cause shall be appointed to be heard in this House, no private bill whatsoever shall be read that day before the hearing of the cause.

Die Veneris, 18 Januarii, 1705.

It is ordered by the Lords spiritual and temporal in Parliament assembled, That the order made the 14th instant, for declaring that no private bill whatsoever shall be read that day any cause is or shall be appointed to be heard, before the hearing of the said cause, shall be, and is hereby, made a standing order of this House, and entered on the roll.

Die Sabbati, 16 Februarii, 1705.

It is ordered by the Lords spiritual and temporal in Parliament assembled, That for the future, all parties concerned in the consequences of any private bill, shall sign the petition that desires leave to bring such private bill into this House.

It is ordered by the Lords spiritual and temporal in Parliament assembled, That when a petition for a private bill shall be offered to this House, it shall be referred to two of the Judges, who are forthwith to summon all parties before them who may be concerned in the bill; and after hearing all the parties, and perusing the bill, are to report to the House the state of the case, and their opinion thereupon, under their hands, and are to sign the said bill. The same method to be observed as to private bills that are brought up from the House of Commons, before the second reading of such bills, by sending a copy of the said bill, signed by the clerk, to the Judges.

It is ordered by the Lords spiritual and temporal in Parliament assembled, That in all cases where trustees shall be appointed by any private bill, the committee to whom that bill is referred do take care that the trustees appear personally before them, and accept the trust under their hands. And also, that the Lord who shall be in the chair of a committee for the passing of any private bills, when he makes his report, shall
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acquaint the House that all the orders of the House, in relation to private bills, were duly observed in the passing the said bill through the committee.

It is ordered by the Lords spiritual and temporal in Parliament assembled, That for the future, when any private bill shall be sent by the House to a committee, there shall be at the same time transmitted to them a copy of these orders now made, and of all other standing orders of the House then in force, relating to the passing of private bills.

Die Martis, 19 Februarii, 1705.

It is ordered by the Lords spiritual and temporal in Parliament assembled, That the orders of the 16th instant, relating to private bills, shall be, and they are hereby declared to be, standing orders, and entered on the roll.

Die Mercurii, 18 Decembris, 1706.

The House being informed that, upon the reference of petitions for private bills to the Judges, pursuant to the standing orders of this House, there arises some difficulty as to the examination upon oath of the persons who are produced before them, to prove the fact, as to the merits of such bills; it is ordered by the Lords spiritual and temporal in Parliament assembled, That upon the reference of any private bill to the Judges as aforesaid, the Judges to whom the said bill shall be referred shall send to this House a list or lists of such persons names as are to be sworn, in relation to such bill; and that they shall be thereupon sworn at the bar of this House, in order to be examined by the Judges upon such oath, in relation to the bill before them.—*Ent. per Ord. 20 Dec. 1706.*

Die Sabbati, 5 Aprilis, 1707.

It is ordered by the Lords spiritual and temporal in Parliament assembled, That on all reports made from committees of amendments to bills for the future, the Lord that makes the report do explain to the House the effect and coherence of each amendment; and that on the clerk's second reading of the same amendments, the Lord on the woofsack do the same: and this to be added to the roll of standing orders.

Die Mercurii, 19 Maii, 1762.

Upon report made from the Lords committees appointed to take into consideration the roll of standing orders of this House, in relation to the standing order of the 16th of February, 1705, No. 100, it is ordered by the Lords spiritual and temporal in Parliament assembled, That where a bill is brought in to empower any person to sell or dis-

dispose of lands in one place, and to buy or settle lands in another place, the committee to whom such bill shall be referred do take care that the values be fully made out; and if the bill shall not be for making a new purchase, but only for settling other lands in lieu of those to be sold, in that case, provision shall be made in the bill, that such other lands be settled accordingly: but if the bill shall be to purchase and settle other lands, in that case, the committee are to take care that there be a binding agreement produced for such new purchase; or if it shall be made appear to the committee that such agreement cannot then be made, or that such purchase cannot then be made and settled, as desired by the bill, and the committee shall be satisfied with the reasons alledged for either of those purposes, in either of those cases, provision shall be made in the bill, That so much of the money arising by sale of the lands directed to be sold, as is to be laid out in a new purchase, shall be paid by the purchaser or purchasers into the Bank of England, in the name and with the privity of the accomptant general of the high court of Chancery, to be placed to his account there, *ex parte* the purchaser or purchasers of the estate of the person or persons mentioned in the title of the said bill, pursuant to the method prescribed by the act of the 12th year of King George the First, cap. xxxii. and the general orders of the said court, and without fee or reward, according to the act of the 12th year of King George the Second, cap. xxiv. and shall, when so paid in, be laid out in the purchase of navy or victualling bills, or exchequer bills. And it is further ordered, That the interest arising from the money so laid out in the said navy or victualling bills, or exchequer bills, and the money received for the same, as they shall be respectively paid off by government, shall be laid out in the name of the said accomptant general, in the purchase of other navy or victualling bills, or exchequer bills; all which said navy and victualling bills, and exchequer bills, shall be deposited in the Bank in the name of the said accomptant general, and shall there remain until a proper purchase or purchases be found and approved, as shall be directed by such bill, and until the same shall, upon a petition, setting forth such approbation, to be preferred to the court of Chancery in a summary way, by the persons to be named in the bill, be ordered to be sold by the said accomptant general for the completing such purchase, in such manner as the said court shall think just, and direct. And it is further ordered, That if the money arising by the sale of such navy, victualling, or exchequer bills, shall exceed the amount of the original purchase money so laid out as aforesaid, then, and in that case only, the

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surplus which shall remain, after discharging the expence of the applications to the court, shall be paid to such person or persons respectively as would have been entitled to receive the rents and profits of the lands directed to be purchased in case the same had been purchased pursuant to the act, or to the representatives of such person or persons.

Ordered, That the standing order before-mentioned be vacated and made void, and that this order be substituted instead thereof, and declared to be a standing order, and that it be entered on the roll of standing orders, and printed and published, to the end that all persons concerned may take notice thereof.

Die Mercurii, 16 Maii, 1792.

Ordered by the Lords Spiritual and temporal in Parliament assembled, That for the future, when a petition for a private bill concerning estates in land, or heritable subjects, situated in that part of Great Britain called Scotland, shall be offered to this House, it shall be referred to the Lord President of the court of session in Scotland, the Lord Justice Clerk, and the Chief Baron of the court of Exchequer in Scotland, or any two of them, who are forthwith to summon all parties before them who may be concerned in the bill, and after hearing all the parties, and perusing the bill, are to report to the House the state of the case, and their opinion thereupon, under their hands, and are to sign the said bill. The same method is to be observed as to private bills concerning estates in land, or heritable subjects, situated in that part of Great Britain called Scotland, brought from the House of Commons, before the second reading of such bills, by sending a copy of the said bill, signed by the clerk, to the chief Judges aforesaid, or any two of them.

Ordered, That for the future, heirs of entail concerned in the consequences of such private bills as aforesaid, and who reside in that part of Great Britain called Scotland, may give their consent to the passing of such bills before the Lord President of the court of session in Scotland, the Lord Justice Clerk, and the Chief Baron of the court of Exchequer in Scotland, or any two of them; and the certificate of the said Judges, or of any two of them, by which it shall appear, that on a day and at a place to be therein expressed, such person or persons did appear personally before them, and being aware of the interest they may have in such bill, did give his, her, or their consent for him or themselves, and for those for whom, according to the law of Scotland, he, she, or they, may be entitled to consent, and did in their presence sign a bill, (which bill, together with the said certificate, must be produced) shall

be held as sufficient evidence of the consent of such person or persons, before any committee of this House to whom the consideration of such bill may be referred.

Ordered, That it be a general instruction to the Judges who shall meet to take consent of heirs of entail concerned in the consequences of private bills relating to estates in that part of Great Britain called Scotland, that they take no notice of the consent of any person to the passing of such bill, unless such person appear before them, or that it be made manifest to them, by an instrument under the hand of a notary public, duly executed according to the forms required by the law of Scotland, that he or she is not able to attend, and doth consent to the said bill.

Ordered, That the said orders be made standing orders, and that they be entered on the roll of standing orders, and printed and published, to the end that all persons concerned may the better take notice of the same.

STANDING ORDERS relating to the bringing in, and proceeding on, Bills respecting Navigable Canals.

Die Lunæ, 11 Martii, 1793.

ORDERED, by the Lords spiritual and temporal in Parliament assembled, That no bill for making any cut, or canal, for the purposes of navigation; or any cut, canal, or aqueduct, for the purpose of supplying any city, town, or place, with water; or for varying or altering any such cut, canal, or aqueduct already made; or for making or improving the navigation of any river; or for altering any act of Parliament, passed for any or either of those purposes, shall be read a third time in this House, unless notice shall have been inserted three times in the London Gazette, in the months of August and September, or either of them, previous to the session of Parliament in which such bill shall be brought into Parliament, that an application was intended to be made to Parliament to obtain such bill; and unless such notice shall also have been inserted in some one newspaper of every county through which any such cut, canal, or aqueduct, is intended to be carried; or in which such cut, canal, or aqueduct already made, is intended to be varied or altered; or in which such river, or such part thereof as is intended to be made navigable, or the navigation thereof to be improved, is situated; (or if there be not any

any newspaper printed in such counties respectively, then in the newspaper of some county near or adjoining thereto), three times at the least, in the months of August and September, or either of them, immediately preceding the session of Parliament in which such application is intended to be made: and unless such notice shall also have been given at the general quarter session of the peace which shall have been holden for every and each county, riding, or division, through which any such cut, canal, or aqueduct, is intended to be carried; or in which such cut, canal, or aqueduct already made, is intended to be varied or altered; or in which such river, or such part thereof as is intended to be made navigable, or the navigation thereof to be improved, is situated, at Michaelmas preceding the session of Parliament in which such application is intended to be made, by affixing such notice on the door of the session house of each and every such county where such general quarter session shall be holden.

Ordered, That such several notices shall contain the names of the parishes and townships (and of no other) in, to, or through which any such cut, canal, or aqueduct, is intended to be carried, varied, or altered; or in which such river, or such part thereof as is intended to be made navigable, or the navigation thereof to be improved, is situated.

Ordered, That no bill, for all or any of the purposes aforesaid, shall be read a third time in this House, unless previously to such bill being brought to this House from the Commons, a map or plan of such intended cut or canal, aqueduct, or navigation, or of any intended alteration in any cut, canal, aqueduct, or navigation, already made, (as the case may be), shall have been deposited with the clerk of the Parliaments; in which map, or plan, shall be described the line of such intended cut, canal, aqueduct, or navigation, or of such intended alteration, and the lands through which the same is intended to be carried, together with a book of reference, containing a list of the names of the owners, or reputed owners, and also of the occupiers, of such lands respectively: and that there be also annexed to the said map or plan an estimate of the expence of such undertaking, (in cases where provision is intended to be made for raising money to defray such expence,) such estimate to be signed by the person or persons making the same; and, if such money is proposed to be raised by subscription, that there be also annexed to the said map, or plan, an account of the money subscribed for that purpose, and the names of the subscribers, with the sums by them subscribed respectively.

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Ordered, That no bill, for all or any of the purposes aforesaid, shall be read a third time in this House, unless, previously to such bill being brought to this House from the Commons, application shall have been made to the owners, or reputed owners, and also to the occupiers, of the lands through which any such cut, canal, aqueduct, or navigation, is intended to be carried, or any such alteration is intended to be made, for the consent of such persons respectively; and unless such map or plan, as aforesaid, or a duplicate thereof, shall, at the time of such application, have been shewn to them respectively; and unless separate lists shall have been made of the names of such owners and occupiers, distinguishing which of them, upon such application, have assented to, or dissented from, such intended cut, canal, aqueduct, or navigation, or such alteration, or are neuter in respect thereof; and unless such list shall be deposited with the clerk of the Parliaments at the same time as the map or plan, and book of reference, mentioned in the preceding order.

Ordered, That in case any bill, for all or any of the purposes aforesaid, shall contain a clause to empower the person or persons who shall make such cut, canal, aqueduct, or navigation, as aforesaid, or any part thereof, to vary or deviate from the line particularly described in the map or plan deposited as aforesaid with the clerk of the Parliaments, such bill shall not be read a third time in this House, unless a like application shall have been made to the owners, or reputed owners, and occupiers of the lands through which such cut, canal, aqueduct, or navigation, might pass, by virtue of the power so given to alter or vary the line thereof; and unless a like list, as aforesaid, of such owners, or reputed owners, and occupiers, be deposited at the time, and in the manner aforesaid, with the clerk of the Parliaments, as if it had been originally proposed to carry such cut, canal, aqueduct, or navigation, through the lands of such persons respectively.

Ordered, That for the future, when any bill, for all or any of the purposes aforesaid, shall be sent by this House to a committee, there shall be at the same time transmitted to such committee a copy of the aforesaid orders now made, and of all other standing orders of the House then in force relating to the passing of such bills: and such committee shall examine, in the first place, whether the orders aforesaid have, or have not, been complied with, and shall report the same to the House.

Ordered, That the said orders be declared standing orders, and that they be entered upon the roll of standing orders of
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this House, and printed and published, to the end all persons concerned may the better take notice of the same.

Die Jovis, 18 Junii, 1795.

Upon report from the Lords committees appointed to consider of the standing orders of this House, it is ordered, by the Lords spiritual and temporal in Parliament assembled, That previous to the second reading in this House of any bill, for making any navigation, aqueduct, cut, or canal, or for improving the same, the map or plan of the said navigation, aqueduct, cut, or canal, which is directed to be lodged in the Parliament office, by the standing order No. 132, shall be engraved or printed upon a scale of half an inch at least to a mile, and annexed to the printed copies of the bill, and shall be laid upon the table of this House.

Ordered, That the said order be declared a standing order, and that it be entered upon the roll of standing orders of this House, and printed and published, to the end all persons concerned may the better take notice of the same.

A
C O L L E C T I O N
OF
RULES
AND
STANDING ORDERS
OF THE
House of Commons,
RELATIVE TO THE APPLYING FOR AND PASSING
B I L L S

Inclofing and draining of Lands, making Turnpike
Roads, Navigations, and Aqueducts, building
Bridges, the more easy Recovery of finall Debts,
paving Cities or Towns,

AND OTHER PURPOSES.

R U L E S
AND
STANDING ORDERS,
&c.

Orders relating to Private Bills generally.

May 26, 1685.

I. ORDERED, That, for the future, no private bill be brought into this House, but upon a petition first presented, truly stating the case, at the peril of the parties preferring the same: and that such petition shall be signed by the parties who are suitors for such bill.

November 24, 1699.

II. Ordered, That no private bill be brought into this House, but upon a petition, setting forth the suggestions and reasons for the same. On the 15th of February, 1700, this is declared to be a standing order, and is repeated on the 18th of January, 1708.

March 13, 1716.

III. Resolved, That no bill be ordered to be brought in on any petition, for repairing or amending any highway, or for making or cleansing any port or harbour, or for making any river navigable, or for any other work proposed to be carried on by tolls or duties to be levied on the subject in particular places, till such petition has been referred to a committee, and they have examined the matter thereof, and reported the same to the House. On the 28th of February, 1734, this is made a standing order.

November 12, 1705

IV. Ordered, That all private bills, brought into this House, be printed, and that they be printed after they are presented to the House, and before the first reading. On the 12th of December, 1706, this order is renewed, and on the 5th of March, 1722 it is ordered, That no private bill be read, before printed copies thereof be delivered to the members of the House, and this is ordered to be a standing order.

November 24, 1699.

V. Ordered, That there be three days between the several readings of all private bills. On the 15th of February, 1700, this is declared to be a standing order, and is repeated on the 18th of January, 1708.

November 24, 1699.

VI. Ordered, That the chairman of the committee for any private bill do not sit thereupon, without a week's public notice thereof set up in the lobby. On the 15th of February, 1700, this is declared to be a standing order, and is repeated on the 15th of January, 1708.

January 15, 1705.

VII. Ordered, That all persons concerned in interest in private bill, in case they are able, do personally attend the committee, to give their consents, and if they are not able personally to attend, that they give certificates of their consent, to be proved, by one or more witnesses, before the committee.

March 21, 1699.

VIII. Ordered, That the chairman of the committee, upon the report of every private bill, do acquaint the House, that the allegations of the bill have been examined, and that the parties concerned have given their consents to the satisfaction of the committee, and that the same be in this order of the House. On the 4th of November, 1705, Ordered, That the chairman do acquaint the House, whether the allegations of the bill have been examined, and the parties concerned have given their consents, to the satisfaction of the committee, and this is declared to be a standing order, on the 15th of February, 1700, and is renewed on the 18th of January, 1708.

June 13, 1751.

IX. The House agreed to a resolution reported from a committee on the 4th of June, That no bill, or clause, for the

the particular interest or benefit of any person or persons, county or counties, corporation or corporations, or body or bodies of people, shall be read a second time, unless fees be paid for the same. And this is ordered to be printed, and hung up in the lobby, with the table of fees.

May 5, 1773.

X. Resolved, That whenever any petition, presented to the House, shall have been referred to a committee, to examine the matter thereof, and report the same, as it shall appear to them, to the House, this House will not admit any petitioners to be heard, by themselves or counsel, against such petition, until the matter thereof shall have been first reported to the House. And this is made a standing order.

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## II.

*Order relating to Bills for inclosing, draining, or improving of Lands.*

*April 15, 1774.*

**R**ESOLVED, That before any petition is presented to the House, for inclosing, draining, or improving any lands, tuns, or commons, a printed or written notice of such intended application to Parliament be affixed on the church door of the parish or parishes in which such lands, tuns, or commons, do lie, for three Sundays, in the months of August and September, or either of them, immediately preceding the session of Parliament in which such petition is to be presented. On the 25th of April, 1774, this is made a standing order.

*April 15, 1774.*

II. Resolved, That in all bills for inclosing lands or commons, the names of the commissioners proposed to be appointed, and the compensations intended for the lord of the manor, and the owners of tithes, in lieu of their respective rights, *where any bargains or agreements have been made for such compensations*, be inserted in the copy of the bill presented to the House, and that all copies of such bills, whether printed or written, which shall be sent to any of the persons interested in the said manor, tithes, lands, or commons, for their consent, do contain the names of such proposed commis-

sioners, and also such intended compensations. On the 25th of April, 1774, this is made a standing order.

*November 15, 1775.*

III. Resolved, That when any petition for inclosing, draining, or improving, any lands, fens, or commons, hath been presented to this House, the committee to whom the said petition shall be referred; or in case the said petition shall not be referred to a committee, then the committee to whom the bill for those purposes shall be committed, do examine, in the first place, how far the orders contained in the two former resolutions have been complied with; and the chairman of such committee shall report the same to the House, on the report of such petition or bill. On the 22d of November, 1775, this is made a standing order.

*April 27, 1774.*

IV. Resolved, That in all bills for inclosures, there be inserted a clause, compelling the commissioners to account for all monies by them laid out, and assessed on the parties concerned in the said inclosures: and this is made a standing order.

*March 14, 1781.*

V. Resolved, That in all bills for inclosing lands or commons, which shall be presented to this House after this session of Parliament, provision be made for fencing out all the public carriage roads on each side, from the lands adjoining; and for preventing any gate from being erected across any of the said roads, or trees being planted on either side of the said public roads, nearer to each other than within the distance of fifty yards: and this is made a standing order.

*March 14, 1781.*

VI. Resolved, That in all bills for inclosing lands or commons, which shall be presented to this House after this session of Parliament, provision be made for empowering and requiring the commissioners named in such bills to appoint one or more surveyor or surveyors, with a salary, for the first forming, and also putting into good and sufficient repair the public carriage roads, and for defraying the expence of such salary, and of such forming and repair which shall be incurred over and above the statute duty, either by sale of a sufficient portion of the said lands, or by a rate upon the owners and proprietors of the lands so inclosed, within the said parish; and for preventing any charge or burden being laid on the inhabitants not being owners or proprietors of lands, towards the first forming,

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making, and repairing the said roads, other than the statute duty, until the same shall, by the said commissioners, or the said surveyor or surveyors, be certified before the justices, at their quarter session for the county in which such parish shall lie, to be completely formed and made good; which certificate the said commissioners, or the said surveyor or surveyors, shall be obliged to deliver to the said justices within two years after the award, or give sufficient reasons for farther allowance of time, not exceeding one other year, under certain penalties to be specified in the said bills respectively: and this is made a standing order.



### III.

#### *Orders relating to Bills for making Turnpike Roads.*

*April 25, 1774.*

I. **RESOLVED**, That before any petition is presented to this House, for making a turnpike road, or for the renewal or alteration of any act of Parliament passed for that purpose, notice of such intended application to Parliament be given at the general quarter sessions of the peace, which shall be held for every and each county or district through which such road passes, or is intended to pass, at the Michaelmas immediately preceding the session of Parliament in which such petition is to be presented.

*April 25, 1774.*

II. Resolved, That this notice be given by affixing to the door of the sessions house where such general quarter sessions are held, a printed or written paper, describing the parishes through which the said road passes, or is intended to pass; and that such notice be also printed in some one newspaper of the county, or, if there is no such paper printed for that county, then in the newspaper of some near or adjoining county, three times at least, in the months of August and September, or either of them, immediately preceding the session of Parliament in which such petition is to be presented. This, and the former resolution, declared to be standing orders.

*April 25, 1774.*

III. Resolved, That when any petition is presented to this House, for making a new turnpike road, or for raising a further sum for that purpose, there be annexed to the said petition



an estimate of the proposed expence of such undertaking, signed by the person or persons making the same; together with an account of the money subscribed for carrying the said work into execution, and the names of the subscribers, with the sums respectively subscribed by them. This is made a standing order.

*November 15, 1775.*

IV. Resolved, That when any petition for a turnpike road, or for renewing or altering any act of Parliament passed for that purpose, hath been presented to the House, the committee to whom the said petition shall be referred, do examine, in the first place, how far the orders contained in the three former resolutions have been complied with; and the chairman of such committee shall report the same to the House, on the report of the petition. On the 22d of November, 1775, this is made a standing order.

*March 13, 1716.*

V. Resolved, That no bill be ordered to be brought in, on any petition for repairing or amending any highway, till such petition has been referred to a committee, and they have examined the matter thereof, and reported the same to the House. On the 28th of February, 1731, this is declared to be a standing order.

*March 12, 1752.*

VI. Resolved, That in all future bills for acts of Parliament, for the erecting or continuing any turnpike, a clause be inserted to oblige the commissioners of such turnpike to take security from their treasurer or receiver for the faithful execution of the said office. This is made a standing order.

*March 12, 1752.*

VII. Resolved, That in all such bills a clause be inserted, to prevent any person who shall be nominated a commissioner, from acting or voting in the business of the said turnpike, unless he shall be possessed of an estate in land, or a personal estate, to such certain value as shall be specified in such bills. This is made a standing order. And on the 14th of March, 1753, this is extended to the heirs apparent of persons possessed of an estate in land to a certain value to be specified: and is made a standing order.

*April 25, 1774.*

VIII. Resolved, That in all bills for making a new turnpike road there be inserted a clause, compelling the subscribers for carrying such work into execution, to make payment of the

the sums severally subscribed by them. This is made a standing order.



#### IV.

#### *Orders relating to Navigable Canals, Aqueducts, and the Navigation of Rivers.*

May 7, 1794.

**I. RESOLVED**, That when any application is intended to be made to the House, for leave to bring in a bill for making any cut, or canal, for the purposes of navigation, or any cut, canal, or aqueduct, for the purpose of supplying any city, town, or place, with water, or for varying or altering any such cut, canal, or aqueduct already made; or for making or improving the navigation of any river; or for altering any act of Parliament passed for any or either of those purposes, (in which bill for altering any such act it is intended to give power for raising any further or additional rates, tolls, or duties, or for varying the line of such canal) notice of such intended application shall be inserted three times in the London Gazette, in the months of August and September, or either of them, immediately preceding the session of Parliament in which such application is intended to be made: and that such notice shall also be inserted in some one newspaper of every county through which any such cut, canal, or aqueduct, is intended to be carried, or in which such cut, canal, or aqueduct, already made, is intended to be varied or altered, or in which such river, or such part thereof as is intended to be made navigable, or the navigation thereof to be improved, is situated, (or if there is not any newspaper printed in or for such counties respectively, then in the newspaper of some county near or adjoining thereto) three times at the least, in the months of August and September, or either of them, immediately preceding the session of Parliament in which such application is intended to be made: and that such notice shall also be given at the general quarter session of the peace which shall be holden for every and each county, riding, or division, through which any such cut, canal, or aqueduct, is intended to be carried; or in which such cut, canal, or aqueduct already made, is intended to be varied or altered; or in which such river, or such part thereof as is intended to be made navigable, or the navigation thereof to be im-

improved, is situated, at the Michaelmas preceding the session of Parliament in which such application is intended to be made, by affixing such notice to the door of the session houses respectively, where such general quarter session shall be holden.

*May 7, 1794.*

II. Resolved, That such several notices shall contain the names of the parishes and townships in, to, or through which any such cut, canal, or aqueduct, is intended to be carried, varied, or altered; or in which such river, or such part thereof as is intended to be made navigable, or the navigation thereof to be improved, is situated.

*May 7, 1794.*

III. Resolved, That a map or plan of such intended cut, canal, aqueduct, or navigation, and also of any intended alteration in any cut, canal, aqueduct, or navigation, already made, shall be deposited, for public inspection, at the office of the clerk of the peace of every county, riding, or division, through which such cut, canal, aqueduct, or navigation, is intended to be carried, or such alteration is intended to be made, on or before the 30th day of September previous to the session of Parliament in which such application is intended to be made; which map, or plan, shall describe the line of such intended cut, canal, aqueduct, or navigation, or of such intended alteration, and the lands through which the same is intended to be carried, together with a book of reference, containing a list of the names of the owners, or reputed owners, and occupiers, of such lands respectively.

*May 7, 1794.*

IV. Resolved, That, before any application is made to the House for any or either of the purposes aforesaid, a previous application shall be made to the owners, or reputed owners, and occupiers of the lands through which any such cut, canal, aqueduct, or navigation, is intended to be carried, or any such alteration is intended to be made; and that separate lists shall be made of the names of such owners and occupiers, distinguishing which of them, upon such application, have assented to, or dissented from, such intended cut, canal, aqueduct, or navigation, or such alteration, or are neuter in respect thereto.

*May 7, 1794.*

V. Resolved, That whenever any petition is presented to the House for any or either of the purposes aforesaid, there shall be presented, with such petition, the lists mentioned in  
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the last preceding resolution, and also a duplicate of the map, or plan, so to be deposited at the office of the clerk of the peace as aforesaid.

*May 7, 1794.*

VI. Resolved, That whenever any petition is presented to the House for making, varying, or altering, any such cut, canal, or aqueduct, as aforesaid, or making or improving the navigation of a river, there be annexed to the said petition an estimate of the proposed expence of such undertaking, (in cases where provision is intended to be made for raising money to defray such expence,) such estimate to be signed by the person or persons making the same; and, if such money is proposed to be raised by subscription, that there be also annexed to the said petition, an account of the money subscribed for that purpose, and the names of the subscribers, with the sums by them subscribed respectively.

*May 7, 1794.*

VII. Resolved, That whenever any petition has been presented to the House for the purposes aforesaid, or any or either of them, the committee, to whom such petition shall be referred, do examine, in the first place, how far the orders contained in the preceding resolutions have been complied with; and do report the same, at the time when they report the matter of any such petition, as it shall appear to them, to the House.

*May 7, 1794.*

VIII. Resolved, That there be seven days between the first and second reading of such bills.

*May 7, 1794.*

IX. Resolved, That all persons, owners, or reputed owners, and occupiers, of the land through which any such cut, canal, aqueduct, or navigation, is intended to be carried, or any such alteration is intended to be made, do personally attend the committee to whom such bill shall be committed; or if they do not personally attend, do give their certificate in writing, signifying that they have seen a printed copy of the said bill, and do give their consent to, or dissent thereto, or declare themselves neuter in respect thereof; and that the hand writing of such owner or occupier to such certificate be proved by one or more witnesses before the said committee; and that the said committee shall report to the House, together with the report of the said bill, a list of the names of such persons who shall appear to them to have given such assent, or dissent, or to have been neuter, in respect to the said bill.

*May*

*May 7, 1794.*

X. Resolved, That there be seven days between the day on which such bill is reported to the House, and the day when the said report shall be taken into consideration.

*May 7, 1794.*

XI. Resolved, That, after such bill is reported to the House, the bill, as amended by the committee, be printed, at the expence of the parties applying for the same, and be delivered at the door to the members of the House, three days, at least, before such report shall be taken into consideration.

*May 7, 1794.*

XII. Resolved, That the clerks of the peace, or their respective deputies, do make a memorial, in writing, upon the plan and book of reference deposited with them in manner aforesaid, denoting the time at which the same was lodged in their respective offices; and do, at all reasonable hours of the day, permit any person to view and examine the same, and to make copies or extracts therefrom, such person paying for the same the usual and accustomed fees paid to such clerks of the peace, for the inspection, and copying of, or making extracts from, records in their respective offices.

*May 7, 1794.*

XIII. Resolved, That, in all bills presented to the House for any or either of the purposes aforesaid, provision be made for compelling the persons who have subscribed towards carrying any such work into execution, to make payment of the sums severally subscribed by them, and also to oblige the commissioners or trustees to take security from their treasurer, receiver, or collector, for the faithful execution of his office.

And these resolutions are made standing orders.

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V.

Orders relating to Bills for building Bridges.

May 23, 1786.

RESOLVED, That before any petition is presented to this House, for erecting a bridge, or for the renewal or alteration of any act of Parliament passed for that purpose, notice of

of such intended application to Parliament be given at the general quarter sessions of the peace, which shall be held for every and each county, or district, to which such bridge extends, or is intended to extend, at the Michaelmas immediately preceding the session of Parliament in which such petition is to be presented. This is made a standing order.

May 23, 1786.

II. Resolved, That this notice be given, by affixing to the door of the sessions house where such general quarter sessions are held, a printed or written paper, describing the parishes to which the said bridge extends, or is intended to extend, and that such notice be also printed in some one newspaper of the county, or, if there is no such paper printed for that county, then in the newspaper of some near or adjoining county, three times at least, in the months of August and September, or either of them, immediately preceding the session of Parliament in which such petition is to be presented. This is made a standing order.

May 23, 1786.

III. Resolved, That when any petition for a bridge, or for repairing, or improving, any act of Parliament passed for that purpose, shall be presented to the House, the committee to whom the said petition shall be referred do examine, in the first place, how far the orders contained in the two former resolutions have been complied with, and the chairman of such committee shall report the evidence upon such examination to the House, on the report of the petition. This is made a standing order.



VI.

Orders relating to Bills for the more easy Recovery of small Debts.

January 2, 1787.

RESOLVED, That in all bills for constituting courts for the recovery of small debts, provision be made, that no person shall be committed to prison by such courts, for more than twenty days, where the debt does not exceed twenty shillings, nor for more than forty days, where the debt does not exceed forty shillings, and that every person so committed shall be discharged at the expiration of the said twenty days,

days, or forty days, respectively, without paying any fees to any gaoler or turnkey. This is made a standing order.

February 2, 1787.

II. Resolved, That, in all bills for constituting courts for the recovery of small debts, there be inserted a clause, that no person shall be capable of acting as a commissioner, unless such person shall be a householder within the county, district, city, liberty, or place, for which he shall act, and shall be possessed of a real estate, of the annual value of twenty pounds, or of a personal estate of the value of five hundred pounds. This is made a standing order.

February 2, 1787.

III. Resolved, That the committee to whom any bill for constituting courts for the recovery of small debts shall be committed, do examine, in the first place, how far the orders contained in the two preceding resolutions have been complied with; and the chairman of such committee shall report the same to the House, on the report of such bill. This is made a standing order.



VII.

Orders relating to Bills for Paving, &c. Cities or Towns.

May 20, 1791.

I. **R**ESOLVED, That before any petition is presented to this House, for paving, lighting, cleansing, or improving, any city or town, or for the renewal, or alteration, of any act of Parliament passed for that purpose, notice of such intended application to Parliament be given at the general quarter sessions of the peace, which shall be held for the county in which such city or town shall be situate, at the Michaelmas immediately preceding the session of Parliament in which such petition is to be presented. This is made a standing order.

May 20, 1791.

II. Resolved, That this notice be given, by affixing to the door of the sessions house where such general quarter sessions are held, a printed or written paper, declaring that such application will be made; and that such notice be also printed in
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some one newspaper of the county, or, if there is no such paper printed for that county, then in the newspaper of some near or adjoining county, three times, at least, in the months of August and September, or either of them, immediately preceding the session of Parliament in which such petition is to be presented. This is made a standing order.

VIII.

Order relating to Bills respecting Trade.

April 9, 1772.

RESOLVED, That no bill relating to trade, or the alteration of the laws concerning trade, be brought into the House, until the proposition shall have been first considered in a committee of the whole House, and agreed unto by the House: and this is made a standing order.

IX.

Order relating to Bills respecting Religion.

April 30, 1772.

RESOLVED, That no bill relating to religion, or the alteration of the laws concerning religion, be brought into this House, until the proposition shall have been first considered in a committee of the whole House, and agreed unto by the House: and this is made a standing order.

X.

Orders relating to other private Bills, not within the foregoing Descriptions.

May 13, 1690.

I. ORDERED, That when any bill shall be brought into this House for confirming of letters patent, there be
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a true copy of such letters patent annexed to the bill : and that this be declared to be a standing order.

December 11, 1706.

II. Resolved, That this House will receive no petition for any sum of money, relating to public service, but what is recommended from the crown. On the 11th of June, 1713, this is declared to be a standing order.

March 29, 1707.

III. Resolved, That this House will not proceed upon any petition, motion, or bill, for granting any money, or for releasing or compounding any sum of money owing to the crown, but in a committee of the whole House. This is made a standing order.

April 23, 1713.

IV. Resolved, That this House will not receive any petition for compounding any sum of money owing to the crown, upon any branch of the revenue, without a certificate from the proper officer or officers annexed to the said petition, stating the debt, what prosecutions have been made for the recovery of such debt, and setting forth how much the petitioner and his security are able to satisfy thereof. On the 25th of March, 1715, this is declared to be a standing order.

June 10, 1773.

V. Resolved, That before any bill of divorce for adultery do pass this House, evidence be given before the committee, to whom the said bill shall be committed, that an action for damages has been brought in one of his Majesty's courts of Westminster Hall, against the person supposed to be guilty of adultery, and judgment had thereupon; or sufficient cause be shewn to the said committee why such action was not brought or such judgment was not obtained. This is made a standing order.



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THE END.

ERRATA in VOL. I.

- Page 81. for Feb. 27, 1662, read 1663.
- 127. for Jan. 18, 1666, read 1667.
- 130. for Feb. 8, 1666, read 1667.
- 155. for April 22, 1761-2, read 1671-2.
- 165. for Feb. 44, read 24.
- 226. for Oct. 20, 1678, read Oct. 26.
- 306. for Oct. 19, 1699, read 1689.
- 308. for *Nov.* 11, read *December*.
- 378. line 1, for *Address*, read Answer.
- 437. for *Oct.* 22, 1696, read Nov. 30, 1710.
- 476. Her Majesty's Answer in this page, June 27, 1713, should precede the Message.
- 481. for 1713, read 1714.
- 486. for Nov. 10, read Nov. 20.

ERRATA in VOL. II.

- 31. for *Her*, read *His*, line 12.
- 237. for June 9, 1772, read Oct. 26, 1775.
- 305. for Nov. 26, 1772, read 1779.
- 376. for Oct. 22, read Dec. 22.

